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Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Publishing Co. Ltd. • 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9 • Publisher: Mitchell Bellman • Editor: Barry Fishman

# Happy Chanukah!



Happy Chanukah from the Bulletin staff and the Shira Ottawa Choir. The choir will launch a new CD this winter. Story on page 21.

### **Bulletin Special Report**

# **Community-wide approach** needed to reach unaffiliated

Leadership pledges to work with agencies and synagogues

By Balint Molnar

often frustrating of under- life all the more difficult. takings. The deceivingly simple adjective "unaffiliated" came to describe a significant but highly amorphous group of Jews. most aspects of organized on the number and other

Jewish life they have little in Outreach to unaffiliated common, which makes Jews remains one of the devising strategies for their most complex, vexing and engagement in community

"We need to get a clear picture about unaffiliated Jews in Ottawa," says Arnie Vered, president of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir. There is Beyond their alienation from little accurate information

attributes of unaffiliated in the capital, he explains. But what is more important, he says, is that many community agencies - like synagogues, SJCC, JFS, JSA and others - are in fact involved in outreach programs.

"What we need is a master plan, a plan that will enable us to see the big picture." According to Vered, different agencies can reach different groups of unaffili-

(Continued on page 2)

# Ancient Treasures and the **Dead Sea Scrolls** exhibit opens

By Estelle Melzer

Ancient Treasures and the Dead Seas Scrolls, an exhibition of priceless archeological finds that span more than 1,200 years in the history of Judaism and chronicle the development of early Christianity, opened December 5 at the Canadian Museum of Civi-

"The Canadian Museum of Civilization is privileged to be able to bring to Canadians these extraordinary artifacts, many of which are being exhibited outside of Israel for the first time," said Dr. Victor Rabinovitch. the museum's president and CEO. "They illuminate an era of profound importance for human history and for two of the world's great religions, Judaism and Christianity."

The exhibit features 109 pieces, including portions of three of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest biblical manuscript ever found. On display will be sections of three of the first scrolls discovered in 1947 - the Isaiah Scroll, the Community Rule Scroll and the War Scroll. Two scrolls have never been outside Israel. The third has not left Israel since it was purchased from an American collector 50 years ago.



Curators Michal Dayagi-Mendels of the Israel Musuem and Jean-Luc Pilon of the Museum of Civilization helped put together the Ancient Treasures exhibit.

the exhibit presents archeological finds uncovered in Jerusalem, Massada, Qumbiblical and Roman eras. It includes the only discovered artifacts tied to the dynasty of King David, as well as personal and household items, such as jewellery, toys and cooking pots, that tell us something of daily life in the Holy

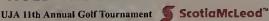
This exhibit is a Canadian exclusive. After its fourmonth run in Ottawa, the artifacts will be carefully packed up by Israeli cura-

In addition to the scrolls, tors and sent directly home

It is the result of a dynamic and fruitful collabram, and other cities of the oration between three museums, the Israel Museum, the Montreal Museum of Archeology and History, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Curators and staff from the three museums have been in daily contact with each other for months developing the exhibits that Canadians will

> The Israel Museum's ton experts have had hands-on involvement in the process. (Continued on page 10)

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# Outreach strategy: encourage inclusiveness, openness and acceptance

ated Jews and it is their cumulative effort that will make community outreach truly successful on a larger scale

But there is also need to create a solid foundation, a launch pad if you will, for a comprehensive outreach strategy. Vered explains that the Vaad's governance structure is presently being overhauled. Under the new system, the Vaad's relationship with its beneficiary agencies, as well as its allocation process, will change profoundly.

"Our current allocation plan is almost archaic, it needs to focus more on specific programs, developed and implemented by agencies," says Vered, adding that an outreach program with a prospect of success can only grow from a comapproach, munity-wide under which the Vaad and its various agencies divide tasks and responsibilities. He also thinks that unaffiliated lews should not have

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apprehensions about approaching the Vaad and other agencies with ideas and proposals. "No one will be turned down and everyone will be heard."

Jewish students: it is too religious in its focus. "We have noticed," he says, "that our turnout tends to be bigger if an event is of the secular type."

"We may get criticism, but in order to be true to our mission - to be a gathering place for Ottawa Jews - we need to hear these groups and respond to their requests."

- Linda Kerzner

When it comes to outreach, there is little dispute that one of the prime targets are young Jews. Dov ben-Reuven, the new director of JSA-Hillel, says that his association reaches around 40 to 50 percent of Jewish students in Ottawa campuses. While there are many reasons for the relatively low turnout rate - commuter campuses, out-of-town students - he admits that there is also a stigma attached to Hillel among unaffiliated

Social Functions

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TAXI

Another challenge for ISA is how to navigate the precarious battlefields campuses have become, where Palestinian and Jewish student groups vie for the ear of the student public, ben-Reuven admits that in the past ISA tended to be reactive in its approach launching hard-edged pro-Isracl campaigns in response to the often incendiary advocacy carried out by Palestinian student groups. This, often inadvertently, has turned off some Jewish students whose political stance on Israel is more critical.

"We are changing our focus," explains ben-Reuven, "we are concentrating on Israel's achievements in the fields of art, science and culture, presenting the country in a positive light." He thinks that this new approach will bring out many Jewish students who have stayed away in the past because of too much emphasis on politics or religious does not mean they cannot content.

JSA also plans to be more visible on campus, providing its members with Tshirts emblazoned by easily identifiable insignia: "It's hard sometimes to be a Jewish student on campus as you often don't know who your fellow Jews are, leaving you feeling isolated and

"We want to be the heart of the Ottawa Jewish community." says Linda Kerzner, president of the SJCC. The SJCC's new strategic plan, to be published in January, will reflect a shift in focus with more emphasis on community building and wide ranging partnerships. Kerzner is acutely aware of the perception barrier that currently exists between the SJCC and unaffiliated groups. "We may get criticism, but in order to be true to our mission - to be a gathering place for Ottawa lews - we need to hear these groups and respond to their requests." But it is a tall order to gather disparate groups of Jews under one roof, when many of these people do not see eye-to-eye on many issues.

In the past, one of those hot-button issues was the SJCC's decision to observe the Sabbath. Kerzner explains that the center's Shabbat policy is unlikely to change. People will have to understand, she says, that for observant Jews the repeal of the Shabbat policy would mean that they could not be members at all.

For the rest, it is clearly an inconvience, but it certainly join the centre. Compromises like this will have to be made in the future as the SJCC's membership grows bigger and more diverse. "There have been conflicts in the past among groups and there will be in the future as well,"

says Kerzner, "but just like back then, we will work them

> Some of Ottawa's unaffiliated Jews profiled on these pages over the last few months are not, in fact, unaffiliated in the classic sense of the word. They could be more accurately called "under-affiliated" as most of these people have a degree of connection to community life: membership in one of Ottawa's synagogues or at the SJCC, occasional participation in events like the AVIV Festival, even donations to the community.

Yet, they all spoke of alienation, feelings of marginalization and even exclusion. Their words are often not easy to hear because they sound too much like indictments of an elite club that carefully picks its patrons. Those words also hold up a mirror which reflects poorly that carefully cultivated self-image of a

charitable community.

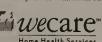
Not all of these criticisms are fully accurate. They are only one-half of a discourse and, more often than not, are the result of sweeping generalizations and pessimistic assumptions that have been all too effective in stymying overtures towards the community's leadership. Yet it is undeniable that behind these "under-affiliated" stand many more, perhaps thousands, who do not see the Ottawa Jewish community as a rallying point but rather as a distant and frosty club that projects alienating rigidity.

Creating openness and encouraging Jewish identification, whatever form it may come in, are the most basic building blocks for a successful outreach strategy. Plans, however, do not become reality on their own, commitment from community volunteers and professionals alike to the principles of outreacb - inclusiveness, openness and acceptance - will be needed to overcome the formidable obstacles that scatter the road to a truly inclusive and diverse Jewish community in Ottawa. We are only at the

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# Open letter from campaign chair

A short time ago, I mentioned that one of the most important goals of this year's UJA campaign was to ensure that the canvassing experience was to be a positive experience for both the canvasser and donor.

I went on to say that it was the responsibility of the canvasser to ensure that they were polite and knowledgeable during the canvass. By the same token, the donor should be prepared for the canvasser to ask for an increase and not to be offended by it. And if we could achieve this harmony, then the numbers would take care of themselves.

I think we are well on our way to accomplishing this goal.

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To date, our donors and canvassers have combined to produce a 13.52% increase over the equivalent from last year. In simple terms, we have raised \$300,000 more to date this year than last. This is a tremendous accomplishment for

We have also raised to date an additional \$439,000 for the Israel Relief and Advocacy Fund, and I



2004 UJA Campaign Chair Robert Greenberg

Well, I am pleased to say that believe that we will be able to raise the additional funds to reach our goal of \$500,000.

> As well as this campaign is going, there is still a lot of work to be done. Not just to finish the canvassing portion of this year's campaign, but to start planning for the years to come. And that is why I am pleased to announce that I have requested and have been granted chairmanship for a second year.

It is my intention to build on all of the good work that has

been accomplished in the last few years and mold a team and a framework that will ensure success for many years to come.

On behalf of Women's Campaign Chair, Bonnie Merovitz and myself, I would like to thank all involved - donors, canvassers/volunteers and the professional staff for helping to make this year's campaign so successful.

I know that the beneficiary agencies are going to be absolutely delighted not only with our efforts, but especially with our results.

Sincerely yours, Robert Greenberg, Chair 2004 United Jewish Appeal Campaign

### **Events**

April 21 - April 30, 2004 Community Wide Mission to Israel Join 100 members of the Ottawa Jewish community in a moving, entertaining and memorable experience in Israel. For more information or to register, please contact Marty at 798-4696 ext. 258 or ujamissions@jccottawa.com

May 30, 2004 Aviv Festival and Walkathon Come together as a community and showcase Jewish spirit and culture to the

city of Ottawa. For more information, please contact Julie at 798-4696 ext. 252 or igowan@iccottawa.com

> For more information on upcoming UJA Events, please log on to www.jewishottawa.org

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# Let there be light

This holiday season, our homes will be filled with light not just from the flame of the chanukiah, but from the joy and anticipation of our family's faces.

In these troubled times, we ask you to share in the light of Chanukah with Jews who are experiencing a time of darkness.

Despite much of the world facing an unprecedented level of suffering, many Jewish communities, both near and far, are still getting ready to light candles for Chanukah.

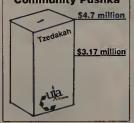
In Argentina and in the Former Soviet Union, the Joint Distribution Committee, thanks to UJA dollars, is helping people to observe Chanukah this year where they might not otherwise have reason to celebrate at all.

In Argentina, where poverty has

reached an historic high, each family participating in Chanukah Biajad will receive a chanukialı with candles, as well as a brochure explaining the holiday. And in Vorkuta, Russia the newly formed Jewish community is celebrating Chanukah for the first

This Chanukah, please support the United Jewish Appeal so that we can continue to counter the unexpected despair of Jewish communities around the world and provide warmth and light for those who need

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# Focus of new groups: serve the needs of young adults

By David Aaron

Many young Jewish adults are relocating to Ottawa. Often a main priority for them is to connect with Ottawa's Jewish community, and in particular to meet and socialize with their Jewish peers.

Many come from cities where a wealth of programming opportunities, specifically targeting young singles and couples, are offered. As a result, some have expressed frustration at the apparent scarcity of similar programming in Ottawa.

The recent cancellation of the Futures singles group added to their concern. A perceived lack of program-

**Ottawa** 

ming specifically tailored to young adults at The Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC), which many had hoped would become a focal point for young Jewish adults to meet and socialize, coupled with the perception that formal community institutions, such as the UJA and Vaad Ha'Ir, were not doing enough to address the concerns of singles and young adults, was also worrying.

Yet there is reason for optimism, as new initiatives are sprouting up to meet the needs of our community's young adults, spearheaded by enthusiastic and capable individuals who realize that the only way to ensure a

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vibrant future for Ottawa's Jewish community is to offer programming and services that connect young adults to the community today

One new option is Yid Kidz Productions. The brainshild of Tawn Friedman and Rebecca Adler, Yid Kidz provides programming targeting everyone from "the young and fun to interesting professionals."

Their recent Oktoberfest event attracted over 100 young Jewish adults to an Elgin Street hotspot, and was met with rave reviews.

Other successful events include a Chanukah-themed event in association with Ottawa's Jewish Students' Association and a Yuk-Yuk's comedy night. On December 24, the Vid Kidz Ball takes place. A similar event organized under the Futures banner last year attracted some 200 individuals.

Having lived in larger Jewish hubs, such as Montreal and Toronto, Tawn and Rebecca have seen how good programming for young Jewish adults can be, and want to bring the same spirit and enthusiasm to Ottawa. "We love this community and want to belp it grow."

Michael Levitan's Outdoor Club events have been
added to the Palm Pilots of
many young adults in our
community. The club, which
receives support from the
SJCC, targets mature adults
(post-graduates and above)
who are interested in outdoors or athletic-related
adventures such as rock
climbing, hiking and weekend camping trips.

Currently boasting a membership of 155, the Club's goal is, "to bring together people from the Jewish community that participate in these fun and active/sporting events, and to encourage others to join Upcoming events include skiing and snowboarding at Mont Tremblant planned for December 14, and an interesting opportunity to join a group from Toronto for a weekend of dog sledding in Algonquin Park from January 16 to 18.

Young professionals and entrepreneurs in our community have further reason to smile with the emergence of a new group called *Yozma* - Hebrew for 'initiative.' The UJA-sponsored group, organized by an enthusiastic committee chaired by Simon Brightman, hopes to attract

and entrepreneurs to a series of events "dedicated to supporting young Jewish entrepreneurs who wish to startup or advance an existing business or career." Yozma hopes to provide networking opportunities, educational and training seminars, mentorship programs and other efforts to help Ottawa's young Jewish business community prosper. The group's inaugural event was held on December 1 and featured a talk by Dr. Josef Straus, the recently retired CEO of JDS

Jewish Education Through Torah (JET) offers another option for singles and couples through its Jetsetters program. Aimed at young adults in there 20s and 30s, Jetsetters offers traditional Jewish Friday night dinners at the homes of Rabbi Zischa Shaps and Rabbi Micah Shotkin.

Uniphase.

Its organizers worry that JET singles programming is improperly perceived as intensely focussed on orthodox religious practices. On the contrary, JET events offer a relaxed Jewish setting where young adults of all backgrounds and affiliations can gather to experience a traditional Shabbat dinner and socialize with their peers. "If young Jews meet other young Jews," said Lauren Shaps, one of JET's directors, "our goal is accomplished." JET will be hosting its own Chanukah Party at the Victoria Park Suites on December 20.

The formal institutions of the community are also on board. Michell Bellman. director of the Vaad, admits programming for Ottawa's young adults "has been a challenge" in the past, but he remains committed to programming for young adults. However, he prefers the grassroots approach now being taken by proactive young adults, who are taking initiative and starting programs to which community organizations can lend formal support.

There has also been indication at recent UJA meetings that greater focus will be put on youth programming efforts in the year

Maxine Miska, director of programming for the SICC agrees that there is a need for greater emphasis on programming for singles and young adults, but argues that, "it takes a volunteer community" that can create the type of programming that young adults want.

"A lot of things need to (Continued on page 22)

### **Allan Taylor**

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### Christians and Jews show their support for Israel Toaether.

There are missions, and then there are missions. It was a mission with a "twist" when a group of Canadian Jews and Christians, billed as "Together for Israel" spent an October week in the Holy Land.

The trip was arranged to coincide with Succot and The Feast of the Tabemacles. Reportedly, over 3000 people from more than 80 countries. mostly evangelical ChrisAnnual Feast of Tabernacles of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.

The Canadian group of forty included eight from the Ottawa area.

Anna-Lee Chiprout, executive assistant at the Embassy of Israel in Ottawa, and her close friend Annie Elliott, one of the Christian organizers of the trip, showed their personal bond by being travel companions

tians, participated in the 24th and roommates for the week. They hope that their friendship can be a starting point for greater collaborations between people and nations.

> "When Annie and I started to discuss planning such a mission, I spoke to the Ambassador (Haim Divon) about it. He has been a big supporter of the idea from the beginning and allowed me to go as the official representative of the Embassy of Israel," said Anna-Lee.

"We went to show our support and love to Israel, especially in its time of need. The situation is terrible in Israel," she said. "To see so many stores, businesses and people that are really suffering; not only the economy, but also the political situation. As far as the group was concerned, there were all kinds of people of different ages, walks of life - a mayor, a doctor, an opera singer, several pastors and some children. We all meshed together like a family, sharing each day."

Annie Elliott agreed. "We were focused," she said. "We knew why we were there. We were really on a mission, a fact-finding mission. We were endorsed by the Embassy of Israel and by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC)."

Group members had a whirlwind week, including participation in the Jerusalem March along with thousands of others. They were addressed and thanked by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for their support and friendship.

They heard speakers, such as Prof. Gerald Steinberg of Bar Ilan University, provide an overview of the history and current state of the Middle East conflict. They donated blood at a mobile clinic set up at their hotel by Magen David Adom. They gave away suitcases of gifts and

Anna Lee Chiprout (right) with members of the "Together for Israel" mission in Jerusalem.

money that participants had brought from home; some of it donated by friends who were unable to travel themselves. They visited absorption centres, trauma centres and hospitals.

Elliott emphasized that this was not a tour; it was a mission. "The goal was to put a face on the people and events in Israel. Every person on the mission was determined to return to Canada and make a difference," she said.

They got their ideas for how to do this, thanks in part to a workshop given by Marra Messinger, director of Community Development for the Canada-Israel Committee. She provided the group members with concrete ideas for pro-Israel advocacy in their communities. "I did a workshop with the group on how to be an

advocate for Israel, translating their love of Zion into something political," she said. "I was pleasantly surprised by the political savvy and acumen that the group displayed. I knew that they loved Israel but they were able to translate that love into political terms which impressed me greatly and I look forward to working with them in the future "

Deborah Millar, an opera singer now based in Victoria, has been to Israel many times before, but this time was different. "I would never again go to Israel as a tourist," she said. "This was such an enriching, human, lifechanging experience.

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· JNF provides Zionist education to Jewish children around the world - introducing them to the natural wonders of their homeland and the importance of protecting the

· As a founding member of the international Arid Lands Consortium, JNF is at the front of this critical global issue.

· JNF has built over 450 parks, playground and recreation areas for enjoyment by Isracli families and tourists, as well as walking trails, archeological restorations and facilities for the physically challenged.

### A half-dozen become B'nai Mitzvah

Mazal Tov and Yasher Koach to Emily Baskin, David Bernstein, Evie Leah Cohen, Mark Cohen, Rachael Esther Ostroff, and Robert Evan Wolfe, all of whom became Bnai Mitzyah recently. Evie's grandnarents, and the parents of the five other celebrants, chose to add a meaningful dimension to the major milestone by inscribing their cherished celebrant's name in the Sefer Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (798-2411).



# **Enhancement of Jewish life includes allowing** debate about Israeli government policy

By Ron Prehogan

I was part of the recent Ottawa delegation to the General Assembly in Jerusalem. While there, 1 also attended a study trip of 10 people as part of the work that t am doing chairing the Israel Task Force for the JCC Association of North America, I would like to share with the community some of the thoughts that I brought back from this

The first bit of encouraging news is that visits to Israel from North American Jews are most definitely on the upswing. We are beginning to accept the fact that the matzav (the situation) is here to stay and that it is meaningless to say, "I'll go to Israel when things calm down." People are beginning to understand that a statement like that is akin to saving "I have no intention of going to Israel." Thankfully, such a statement does not sit well with scores of Jewish people and as a result they are returning to visit Israel.

During a Shabbat discussion that my task force group had with Avram Infeld, interim president, Hillel International, a picture developed in my mind

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of North American Jewish community leaders running around like chickens with their heads cut off.

The theme of our discussion was that in order for Jewish communities to move forward in a positive direction, the federation and all agencies within a community must begin to focus on our mission and not just on our tasks

Infeld's thesis is that whether we are a JCC, a school a social service organization or whatever, we have one common mission and that is the enhancement of Jewish life for all Jews within our community. As long as we continue to focus on our tasks and not our mission, we will always be fighting with ourselves because of the focus on what divides us as opposed to what unites us.

In Ottawa, we are heading in the right direction. The current work being undertaken by the Vaad trustees, executives and officers and the committees of the Strategic Planning Task Force in the areas of governance, allocations, Vaad-agency contracts. vision and values is testament to a full-scale commitment towards an integrated approach to community building.

It will take some time for this work to filter down into the daily lives of our community agencies, but there is no mistaking our community's resolve for us all to focus as partners on our mission and not just on our

We can also enhance our connections with Israel. What has become apparent to me is that there needs to

way North American Jewish leaders deal with Israel within our communities. It no longer works to say to people "you must support Israel." Instead, we must begin to recognize that telling anyone what to do is a recipe for it not being done. We must begin to talk with people in a language we all understand

It means that we must allow Jews to express their political, social, religious, personal and community views about Israel openly.

We cannot make people feel like they are inferior Jews if they disagree with the policies of the Israeli government. We cannot be

scen to be feeding propaganda to our communities We must engage them in the dehate

We must recognize that arguing about Israel in our Jewish communities is infinitely better than not talking at all. As in any relationship, once the talking ends then so too usually does the relationship. Our relationship with Israel is far too important for us to allow that to happen. Stay tuned for more on this topic

The Vaad, the SJCC, the schools and other Jewish agencies all have a part in enhancing Jewish life. 1 have every confidence that as partners we will succeed in that endeavour.

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# VAAD Report

Arnie Vered President

Several weeks ago, I made an announcement in the Bulletin indicating that the Vaad Ha'Ir had created the new position of community liaison officer, which would be piloted by Rona Shaffran-Tannenbaum, current Vaad 2nd vice-president.

While this innovative role is still developing, the Vaad is now poised to put this plan into action.

To review, this new community liaison officer role is meant to provide greater access for individuals in our community. This will be achieved by helping to focus the attentions of the Vaad on unique mat-



Is Chanukah the celebration of a victory, or the celebration of the miracle of the oil? Is it a combination of the two, or a celebration of something else?

Actually, in the period prior to Chanukah, the crisis and subjugation prevented the people from celebrating the eight-day Sukkot-Shemini Atzeret festival. After the victory, they celebrated Chanukah as a way of making up for the eight-day celebration that they missed. Hence, the eight days of Chanukah.

That is one explanation of Chanukah, mentioned in many places but hardly the conventionally accepted one. So, back to the question.

The Talmud (Shabbat, 21b), in discussing Chanukah, makes little mention of the war. The Talmudic conversation is mostly about the miracle of the oil.

On the other hand, in both the grace after meals and the Amidah (main prayer), in the

# Success through governance

ters, such as opportunities, questions, concerns, and the occasional disagreements that members of our Jewish community would like addressed by an officer of the Vaad

To this end, we have made every effort to ensure that this process is as accessible as possible.

Recently, a designated phone line and an e-mail address were set up at the Vaad to collate issues that arise. They will be checked regularly. By utilizing these mechanisms, a member of our community will be able to find expression for their conem. Although confidentiality, if requested, will be maintained, each message received will be answered personally indicating that the matter had been duly noted, and that it would be reviewed shortly.

To access the community liaison officer,

please phone (798-4696, ext.788) or email: CLO@jccottawa.com.

Gabe Meranda, director of communications and community relations, will assess the issues along with Rona. They will meet frequently to strategize solutions, which may include consultations with any other appropriate individuals, in order to facilitate a successful response to the issue.

Upon presenting a reply to the individual, we will ensure that there is some follow-up on the matter.

The officers of the Vaad firmly believe that by opening up more lines of communication, we will further serve the interests of everyone. When those interests are served, we become a richer community.

Through ongoing discussions and involvement from all members of our Jewish community, we will be more successful at navigating and shaping the strategic path that we have articulated.

As the father-in-law to Moses, Yitro offered some sage advice in Exodus about fielding disputes and making judgments for his people, himself. Yitro instructed Moses to seek support in fulfilling the duties that were necessary to resolve. "Make it easier for yourself by letting them share the burden with you," Yitro said. "If you do this ... all these people too will go home unwearied."

We continue to look for valuable input from all members of our community. Together we can make a difference.

On behalf of the Officers of the Vaad Ha'lr, I would like to extend a meaningful and illuminating Chanukah to you and your family.

# The essence of Chanukah

Al HaNissim text, which refers to the great Chanukah miracle, the oil component is mentioned only at the end.

Even then, it is only mentioned in passing — that the people lit the oil. There is no mention that the oil lasted miraculously for eight days. The AI HaNissim itself relates more to the military battle that preceded Chanukah. Why is there such a disparity between the Talmud and the prayers concerning the content for Chanukah?

The Talmud addresses itself to the question of the ultimate significance of Chanukah. Military battles have been too frequent in history to justify having a celebration just for victory in combat.

Additionally, we avoid celebrating military victories. The only celebration that is institutionalized is the *aftermath* of the military victory, if that aftermath is peace and remailful.

With Chanukah, more than peace and tranquility is celebrated. Of great significance is the fact that God gave the final stamp of approval to the entire process of return, through the miracle of the oil. This enabled the people to keep the light of the Temple bunning, so that the Bet HaMikdash

would be open to the community.

It was God's way of endorsing the cause, and the sincerity with which the campaign was fought. As well, it gave a spiritual thrust to the post-military reality. This inspired people who bad previously been on the brink of assimilation to return to their roots.

The Al HaNissim prayer in the Amidah is in the section of thanksgiving. In this component, we give thanks to God for the great deliverance. The military deliverance was in fact an extraordinary feat. The handful of Maccabees fought against great odds, and by all military calculations should have been soundly defeated.

Not only were they not defeated, they actually emerged victoriously and were able to rededicate the Temple. At HaNissim gives thanks to God for enabling the Maccabees to overcome such tremendous obstacles in their

But the key to establishing Chanukah as a period of celebration is the fact that the people understood the moment as a call of return. This was the correct interpretation of their miraculous deliverance, an interpretation that was given the Godly stamp of

approval through the miracle.

The stamp of approval from God need not be singled out for a special thanks, since this was God's way of thanking the people for returning to the fold. It therefore does not belong in the Amidah, but it is the focal point of discussion when contemplating what Chamkah is.

The deliverance prior to Chanukah, and the return to traditional roots on Chanukah itself, speak of the ongoing partnership between God and Israel. It is a partnership which at times might be shaky, but thankfully has always come back from the brink.

The essence of Chanukah, then, is our becoming free and therefore able to live as Jews, unencumbered by any restrictions.

That is the essence of Chanukah. It is not a major celebration. Instead, it is the appreciation of the fact that we are able to celebrate the major holy days – Shabbat, Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Succot, and Shemini Atzeret, and every other mitzvah obligation.

We celebrate Chanukah as the great facilitator for all that being Jewish means.

# Pirkei Avot: the wisdom of our sages

Pirkei Avot - Ethics of the Fathers, Chapter 1, Mishna 16

"Make for yourself a Rav (Rabbi, Teacher) and you will have no doubts"

The Talmud in Brachot states, "A person cannot let themself out of a jail cell that he is locked in." In other words, with all of our strengths and abilities, there are times when we need to seek out the help of others for guidance and advise. As a rabbi and an educator, I often meet with students, faculty and parents. I usually know the right thing to counsel them in various situations, but, when it comes to my own children, I'm totally lost! I am in jail and

need another person to let me out.

In life we have many questions. Sometimes we know the right answer, at other times we need to seek out counsel from others. Who do we turn to when we want to know the Jewish opinion on a matter? Where do we go when we want to know how the Torah views a certain decision we need to make?

The above Mishna advises us: "Make for yourself a Rav ..." Find a rabbi for yourself, develop a strong relationship, and, by doing this, you will be released from all of life's prison cells that crop up along the way.

Rabbi Boruch Perton is the Director of Education at Hillel Academy.



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How about this for a sales pitch? A new matchmaker in town is guaranteeing she will make you an incredible *shid-duch*. And best of all, it won't cost you a penny. Now, tell me, who could resist such a deal?

However, before you start calling all your single friends with the good news, I should tell you that this matchmaker is making a somewhat different kind of match.

Here is how it works. Leiba Krantzberg, who sits on the executive board of the Vaad, says she has met many people over the years "who would like to get involved on a volunteer basis, but don't know how or where to go to

As the new chair of the Vaad's Human Resource Development (HRD) Committee, Krantzberg is vowing to change all that. "Something our community is missing is a data base of volunteers willing to help out. My job is to help create that database and act as a matchmaker by finding the right match for the individual looking to help our community."

Krantzberg, who laughingly refers to herself as a professional volunteer, says that everyone who visits www.jewishot-

How I see it

Do you belong to a labour union? Chances are you do, if you are a federal, provincial, or City of Ottawa employee; a nurse or other hospital worker; an elementary or high school teacher; somebody who works for a social services agency; or if you drive a cab.

If you are a union member, do you know what your union dues are being used for? Are they being used to help your union hargain for hetter wages, henefits, and working conditions? Or is it possible that a portion, even a large portion, of your dues are funding causes that work against things you consider to he in your best interests?

Almost sixty years ago, Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand handed down a decision that requires all employees in a bargaining unit to pay union dues, whether they are members of their union or not. His decision was based on the fact that all employees, not just those who belong to the bargaining unit, benefit from their collective agreements. The Rand Formula is now an accepted part of the Canadian industrial relations system.

# A match made in Ottawa

tawa.org website and clicks on Vohmteer in the Community to register, will be contacted personally by her. The idea is to find out the interests of the individual and then introduce him or her to the proper person in one of the beneficiary or community agencies. "I made a pact with myself," she says, "to make a shidduch for all those who want to volunteer."

To reach her goal, Krantzberg will spend a great deal of time liaising with the many volunteer organizations to find out the areas they need help in. By properly placing the volunteer, she feels, "the chance of retention is higher" and hopefully the volunteer may be interested in a leadership position at a later date.

Krantzberg feels the project will be successful "when all those who want to get involved do, and there are enough volunteers for the different agencies."

It is easy to understand why Krantzberg is "quite excited" about her new position. Our newest matchmaker knows that volunteerism is the backbone of our community. By developing a method to make it a more convenient and satisfying experience, Krantzberg is hoping "to reach out to new people and get them involved."

And believe me, our agencies and organizations need your help. Recently, I spent a morning with one of the beneficiary agencies, learning about its vork and discussing how it can better get its story out. Part of our discussion dealt

with the very real need for volunteers. It is something I hear constantly from almost every agency, school or community organization I come in contact with.

You can help. For those new to Ottawa or unaffiliated, volunteering is a good way to become involved. You will meet new people, get the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference and help build our community.

For the past number of months, the Bulletin has been running a series of stories on outreach and the unaffiliated. For those interested in outreach, you may consider volunteering for organizations working in that area.

The Vaad is committed to making your volunteer work as rewarding and

pleasant as possible. And with matchmaker extraordinaire Leiba Krantzberg in charge, what have you got to lose? You are guaranteed an amazing shidduch that will not only make you feel good about yourself, but will help those who so desperately need your assistance.

#### Correction

The print gremlins were at work in the last edition of the *Ottawa Jewish* 

The caption for the photo in which the Hillel Lodge Auxiliary past presidents were honoured inadvertently misspelled Rachel Nadolny's name. The Bulletin sincerely regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

# Mailbag

Harris wrong to malign Dale

I can imagine that the task of writing a regular column that provides readers with another perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian situation, in addition to other topics, can be a difficult one. But it is one that Bob Dale has taken on and, in my opinion, done quite well.

To suggest, as Stephen Harris does, that Dale writes with impunity is to miss the point of his columns. For the most part, he asks us to consider how to live as a Jew in secular world. If he provokes critical debate and discussion, then he continuously leaves. himself open to criticism and to the consequences that stem from his writings.

The even-handed point of view that Stephen Harris desires was initiated by Dale's suggesting that the community respond to the publication of the offensive editorial cartoon in a recent issue of Nepean This Week.

Attributing to Bob Dale the power to "mobilize the apparatus of Canadian Jewry to deal with a local newspaper" is sheer stilliness on the part of Harris, and maligns Dale's character.

Irwin Schweitzer

# Your union and Israel

In the mid-1980s, Merv Lavigne, a community college teacher in Northern Ontario, got upset when he found out that his union dues (which, under Rand, he was compelled to pay) were being used, in part, to support political causes he disliked. Mr. Lavigne had no problem with his dues going towards activities aimed at improving his wages and working conditions. But he felt that their use for political purposes, for example, funding groups who supported military disarmament or large scale strikes in far off countries, or financially supporting the NDP, went well beyond his interests and those of his fellow union members.

Mr. Lavigne sued his union, claiming that he should only be forced to pay the part of his union dues that applied to strict collective bargaining matters.

Lavigne's case was appealed right up to the Supreme Court of Canada, which issued a landmark decision in 1991. It basically confirmed that Mr. Lavigne's union could indeed use his dues for political purposes. Canadian unions naturally consider the Lavigne case to be a great victory, and millions of dollars of union members' dues continue to be used each year for political purposes, supporting causes both within Canada and around the world.

What kind of causes? Well, union dues go

towards opposing global trade agreements, which unions consider inimical to their interests. They go to groups that seek to end forced or indentured labour in the developing world; groups lobbying for increased funding to combat AIDS; and many other groups and activities. I have little problem with supporting causes like these, even if their impact on Canadian workers is somewhat indirect.

But I have serious problems with union members' dues funding slick publications that portray Israel as an oppressive, apartheid state that, without cause, regularly and uncaringly institutes oppressive and brutal practices against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. I have even greater difficulty when those publications back up these allegations with distorted, and extremely dishonest historical overviews of the founding of the State of Israel and its afternath with computer-generated pictures that deliberately mislead their readers.

However, my biggest problem is that this material isn't produced by some fringe union group, but is a deliberate policy decision by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Canada's largest labour union with over 500,000 members. CUPE's material, which I have in front of me, is printed in bulk in its British Colum-

bia printing plant, and then sent across the eountry for distribution.

This material was given to me by a friend, who picked it up at an information booth at Carleton University in early November. It is also distributed at other universities and colleges, and I assume in many other locations. CUPE naturally has communications people and publication design teams who have ensured that the material is done quite professionally; and is aimed at convincing the majority of Canadians (most of whom don't know all that much about the complexities of the Middle East) that Israel has relentlessly buillied the Palestinians for no apparent numose.

A number of Jewish members of CUPE in Toronto have joined together to try to stop material like this from heing produced and circulated. But they are fighting an uplitil battle, given the perspective their union has taken on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the resources it has at its disposal - namely, their union dues. Maybe it's time we lobbied our new Prime Minister to take another look at the Rand Formula and the Lavigne decision, to ensure that these tools, put in place to help working people, aren't abused by those who have agendas that are far more distasteful.



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Chanukah greetings

# **Exhibit artifacts: 'veritable treasures'**

Michal Dayagi-Mendels, curator of Israelite and Persian Periods, helped develop the First Temple Period exhibit.

David Meyorah, curator of Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Archeology, worked on the Second Temple Era and Adolfo Roitman, director of the Shrinc of the Book, developed the display for the scrolls.

The Montreal exhibit, which just closed, was entitled Archeology and the Bible. The Canadian Museum of Civilization exhibit contains some artifacts not presented in Montreal as well as different scroll pieces on display.

"The approach we are taking at the Museum of Civilization is slightly different," explained Jean-Luc Pilon, the in-house curator. "We wanted to open up the story line and provide more information on the Jewish-Christian connection. Both Christians and Jews who see this exhibit will feel that they are visiting the roots of their religious traditions," he stated

exhibit's title, Ancient Treasures and the Dead Sea Scrolls, reflects the truly extraordinary nature of some of the artifacts. Pilon calls them "veritable treasures" and explained that the exhibit is set up to create an ambiance around the most important pieces, to help people understand the reality of what they are standing in front of.

stone dated around 150 years after the reign of King David, which mentions the House of David; an amulet from the 7th century B.C.E. with the priestly blessing (May the Lord bless you and keep you...), the oldest biblical text ever found; a tiny carved pomegranate, believed to be the only piece discovered directly linked to Solomon's Temple; a wall drawing of the Temple menorah by a contemporary eyewitness; an impression in clay of the seal of Gemariah, son of Saphan, in whose chambers the prophet Jeremiah warned of coming destruction and exile: the ossuary of Joseph, son of Chaiaphas, the High Priest at the time of Jesus's death.

are: the Tel Dan Stele, a

Asked what his personal favourite was among these treasures, Pilon mentioned the Sepher Torah, which came from the collection of the Library and Archives of Canada. The first torah in Canada, it was sent to the Montreal Jewish community in 1779 from a community in London but was originally from the Iberian Peninsula. "The reality of how old the Jewish community is in Canada is not known," he explained.

Trying to convey the special pature of this event Pilon pointed out, "If you went to Jerusalem you would never be able to see all of these pieces assembled in one exhibit to tell a coherent story.

A huge amount of Among these treasures thought has gone into what

these pieces represent and the story they tell. That narrative is told mainly through "exceedingly well-thought out text" on story boards. Pilon explained that this was a cooperative effort between scholars from the three museums and commented with feeling, "each word was weighed three times."

Since the exhibit was created to be self-guided, there are no audiotapes or docents There will however, be artifact "interpreters," volunteers who have been training for seven weeks and can provide additional information or answer questions about the pieces. There is also a reading room at the exit of the exhibit with selected books and, in February, the Museum of Civilization will present a lecture series by Biblical scholars.

"This exhibit is an overwhelming opportunity for one to occupy the same space with objects that have so much symbolic power in the development of human history," concluded Pilon. "The Canadian Museum of Civilization is truly privileged to be able to offer this experience to Canadians."

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Alex Cullen Your Community Councillor in Bay Ward Happy Chanukah and **Best Wishes** Please feel free to call me at 580-2477 or email me at alex.cullen@ottawa.ca

# Florence Melton school attracts record numbers

By Prolessor Gerry Cammy

The newest 'kid on the block,' the Florence Melton Adult Mini-school has been a resounding success.

Sixty students, in two separate classes of 30 each, have convened every Monday and Thursday to seek an opportunity to acquire a solid foundation of Jewish knowledge in a very systematic way. As Estelle Melzer describes the experience, "Wonderful curricula and exciting teachers that leave me percolating with thoughts and concepts all week long."

The number of students who registered for this first Judaism and to deepen the of a two-year program is astounding. Many are wait-astounding. Many are wait-

ing for another group to be convened. They have heard from their friends and colleagues, now taking the course, about the excitement and the exchange of views on various topics in a very pluralistic atmosphere, where everyone is made to feel at home and no question or idea is given short shift.

Indeed one of the goals of the school is "to stimulate critical thinking and reflection in a non-judgmental environment." Another key goal of this "learning community" is to promote familiarity with the essential texts of Judaism and to deepen the understanding of Jewish prac-



Schoot registration has surpassed atl expectations.

(Photo: Barry Fishman)

Gunner relates, "It's a stimulating two hours that encourages serious thought about our texts and oral traditions."

Rabbis Eli Braun and Steven Garten are outstanding teachers and scholars. They are dynamic, knowledgeable and create a lovely atmosphere in the classroom. Both courses, the Rhythms of Jewish Living and the Purposes of Jewish Living, have set goals.

Rabbi Braun's 'Purposes' is devoted to the 'why' question. Why is it that Jews do what they do and believe what they believe? Rabbi Garten's 'Rhythms' section

introduces students to the ideas, beliefs and practices which define and shape a Jewish life.

Roslyn Wollock describes how the Melton School has enriched her knowledge of Judaism: "Discovering the sources has added a fascinating dimension and perspective to my knowledge of who I am as a Jew. I particularly enjoy the pluralistic approach."

Cally Kardash sums up the feelings of her fellow students, "The highlight of my week. A wonderful format for the study of Tanach with outstanding teachers."

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Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

# Die Folkshpieler strike again

By David Michaelson

"Mir zeinen doh! We're here again!" After a fun filled first performance last June Die Folkshpieler, Ottawa's own Yiddish light theatre, is back for a second go at drama, music and laughter.

A program of the SJCC, this performing group is directed by Shirley R. Stcinberg. She is well known in our community, not only as leader of the Israella Singers, but also for 'Gelechter Un Gesung' and other musical/Yiddish programs for SJCC, AJA 50+ and Hillel Lodge.

Folkshpieler's enthusiastic players have already begun rehearsals for its next presentation. What is in store for you, the audience?

The Dzigan and Schumaker classic, 'A Yiddisher Gesheft.' Originally written and performed more than half a century ago, this two-person eomedy routine is still as up-to-date as human nature itself.

The lachereikeb, 'Druken Un Deigan,' where a socalled world famous, or is it notorious psychologist, dispenses advice from which you could die ... laughing. Another treat:
'Kapriezeke Lieder;' songs
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Then there is Shirley Steinberg's one act farce, 'Shtime Mit Shtik,' or, how to go crazy by trying to organize a choir at short notice for a special occasion.

When will all these delights take place? Sunday, 13 June 2004, at the SJCC. We'll teil you more in a future Bulletin.



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Myrna and Norm Barwin in memory of Norman Langill, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Langill

Susan Glass, Pierre Boivin and Sarah Boivin to the family of the late Genya Lukseuberg in memory of your beloved mother

Fred and Lisa Cogan in memory of Charles Kessman, father of Carol Kassie

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Employees of Industry Canada, International Telecommunications in memory of Ella Tiger, mother of Michael Tiger

The Finestone family to Mr. and Mrs. Chadnick and family in memory of their beloved grandmother and great-grandmother

Sharon, Paul, Joshua, Jordan and Davina Finn to Glen Skemer in memory of Marilyn Skemer

The Finsten family to Ann Scholey in memory of John (Jack) A. Scholey

Jack Flesher to Mervin Blostein and family in memory of Esther Blostein

Liane, Roger and Marisa Freedman to Peter Williams in memory of your beloved wife Alison

Natalie and Tnm Gussman to Michael Tiger in memory of Ella Tiger

Dr. Alan Iny in memory of Tammy Levy Lawi, beloved wife of Mr. Roger Lawi and beloved daughter of Sami and Amira Levy

Joanie and Benjy Karch to Sid Goldstein and family in memory of his father Louis Goldstein

Jonathan, Jennifer, Noa and Haley Kardash to Brian and Susan Gould in memory of your beloved father Frank

Peggy Kleinplatz to Mark Schachter in memory of Mr. Schachter

René and Tamara Milet in memory of Carolina Beiger

The Mozersky family to Mr. and Mrs. John Waddington and family in memory of Heleu Waddington

Sharon and Alan O'Sullivan in memory of the beloved brother of Alice Whelton; in memory of Jim Kaufinan, beloved husband of Kathleen Kaufman

Pinchas and Barhara Pleet to Sylvia, Lisa and Barry Draluck in memory of Murray Draluck

Maxine and Arthur Rabinovitch to Dr. Harry Kamen in memory of his sister

Peter, Rosa, Tammy and Debbie Stone to Amalia Shaked in memory of Avram Shaked

Rick and Helen Zipes in memory of the beloved father of James Danbrook

In Appreciation from:

Ruth Katz to Rabbi M. Blum Ruth Katz to Dr. Gretl K. Fischer Lynda and Tara Wakter to George and Charlene Arje

Mazal Tov from:

Yvonne and Yehuda Azuelos to Maurice Benzacar for being one of the honources at the Negev Dinner held in Toronto

Myrna and Norman Barwin to Tony and Elizabeth Graham for receiving the Philanthropy Award

Carol and Benzie Caspi to *Ilana and Elie Traube* on the birth of their daughter Ita Ariella

Fred and Lisa Cogan to Martha Bergeron on her 50th birthday

Fred and Lisa Cogan and the Guys to Carol Greenberg on the 90th birthday of her mother. Mrs. Gardner

Donna and Mickey Finkelstein to Lois and Nate Ratson on their 45th wedding anniversary

Reisa and Allan Glenns to Corinne and Sheldon Taylor on their 25th wedding anniversary

Raezelle and Gustave Goldmann to Ellen and Steve Asherman on their 35th wedding anniversary

Judi and Elliott Hoffman to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kassie on the birth of their grandson Adam Elliott

Peggy Kleinplatz and Howard Schwartz to Dr. Yossef and Mrs. Caytak on the occasion of their son, Rabbi Herschel Caytak receiving his Smieha

Esther and David Kwavniek to Natalie and Jack Stein to welcome you to your new home Maxine and Arthur Rabinovitch to Mr. and Mrs. Leuet on Nachshon's upsheron

Marcia Saipe and Ted Miller to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Earle on the birth of Benjamin Aaron and Arie David

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Rick and Helen Zipes to Dr. Steven Rubin on the occasion of his special upcoming birthday

Rick and Helen Zipes to Dr. Steven and Elizabeth Rubin on the birth of their first grandson Joshua

Refugh Shleima from:

Cantor Daniel and Muriel Benlolo to Stephen Victor

Dr. Steven and Elizabeth Rubin to Morris Samel

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Please accept our apologies if we misspelled or omitted anyone's name or contribution.

This list is up to November 18, 2003.

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# Rust-free seniors and AJA 50+

Do seniors have to rust like old cars in a junkyard? Well, remember the motto, "Use it or lose it?" Active Jewish Adults 50+ is there to help you, the mature adult, to definitely use it, and to have some fun as well.

From September to December, some 30 activities took place, most of them at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Mondays: you started first thing in the morning with 'Walk for the Heart of It.' Later, at the SJCC, those who dreamed of performing in chorus lines learned basic jazz steps to favourite show

I wish the entire

Ottawa Jewish Community

a Happy Chanukah

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tunes in 'Broadway Dancing.' Would-be Rembrandts were taught how to paint and draw in 'Art Classes -Expressive and Dynamic Drawing.

Tuesdays: the big thing here was 'Creative Connections,' a joint AJA 50+/SJCC program going from morning to aflernoon, and packed with exercise, lectures, music and more. News junkies came to 'Current Events,' where they helped settle world problems.

Wednesdays: lovers of games who wanted something different tried 'Drop in Mah Jongg.'

Thursdays:

in Bridge ' Besides these weekly activities that spanned the season, there were others, lasting from one to five sessions. They included, 'Safety Talk,' by the Ottawa Fire Department, '55 Alive Mature Driver Refresher Course' and 'Managing

Other programs included Canadian Mint Tour; Art History at the National Gallery; Jewish Genealogy Lccture; Ashkenazi Women and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Seminar; and VIP Brunch with Sharon Sholzberg Gray of the Canadian Healthcare Association

New members of AJA 50+ were eligible for discounts if



AJA 50+ golf group celebrates third annual tournament

Music,' a self-led group, This allowed them to take revealed how Jewish composers and performers influclassical music, Broadway, pop, even roll and roll. Lovers of games who wanted something different from mah jongg tried 'Drop

they also joined the SJCC.

Vitality, Functional Fitness Happy Chanukah to our friends and Aquafit and other exercise classes run by the Centre. in the Ottawa Jewish Community So you see, seniors defi-



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# membership chair (829-

part in aerobic classes, 50+

nitely do not have to rust like

old cars in a junkyard. With a

bit of mazel and Active Jew-

ish Adults 50+, they can keep

their minds and bodies

purring like a Rolls Royce

that has just bad its oil

will be coming out soon. For

information on membership,

please contact Rhoda Zaitlin.

A new Program Guide

changed.

# **Holiday Classic Basketball Camp**

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December 22, 23, 24 9:30 am - 3:30 pm ages 9 - 14



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# JSA Hillel hires new director, creates Israel Advocacy group

The Jewish Students Association/Hillel of Ottawa (JSA-Hillel) recently hired Doy ben-Reuven as its new director. Dov ben- Reuven returns to Ottawa after spending two years in Israel, and brings to the Ottawa Jewish student body a vast amount of experience. An Ottawa native, ben-Reuven served as student president of Hillel from 2001 to 2002. In Israel he served in the Israeli Defense Forces in the ues to offer Friday night search and rescue home front command unit. He also spent much of his time working on Kibbutz Maagan Michael, just south of Haifa.

The Ontario University 'double cohort' year has seen a rise in Jewish student enrollment in Ottawa. With this in mind, Hillel began the fall term with an amazing welcome party at Suite 34 in the Byward Market, which reunited Jewish students from last year and brought freshman students into the fold. JSA-Hillel also contin-



Dov ben-Reuven

Shabbat dinners twice a month, alternating between Carleton and the University of Ottawa.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has proven to be an explosive issue on campuses around the country. Carleton University has dealt with enormous political and religious issues since the beginning of the Palestinian Intifada in 2001.

In response, Hillel's political activities in support of the State of Israel has included the Israel in your Life Fair on Carleton campus, which presented and demonstrated the ways that Israel has affected the lives of everyday Canadians through technology, science, and culture. Hillel invited a variety



Galit Germanov

of speakers to address the situation in Israel, including renowned Israel advocate Neil Lazuras, Israeli Bedouin and famed political analyst Ishmael Khaldi; guests from Israel at Heart, and Birthright educators.

Ben-Reuven, with the assistance of Galit Germanov, working in Ottawa for the Jewish Agency, also

created an Israel Advocacy group. This group is made up of committed Jewish students who, through an interrelated set of speakers and seminars, will gain the tools necessary to properly advocate on Israel's behalf whether on or off campus.

Hillel events for the second term include an amazing ski trip, more renowned speakers, shabbat dinners galore, and of course our annual Shabbaton!

For more information about the Jewish Students Association/Hillel of Ottawa and its events, log on to http://www.members.rogers. com/jsaottowo/ or phone 236-2345.

Noah Zatzmon is the vicepresident of the Jewish Students Association-Hillel ond is pursuing a degree in public affairs and policy monogement.



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# Tamir helps Merrissa fulfill a dream

"I told Mom, I am now ready to have a Bat Mitzvab and I want to go to Shul more often and I want to be more Jewish," said 18-yearold Merissa Loeb. "Her sister, Jessica, had celebrated a Bat Mitzvah and Merissa wanted to do the same," explained her mother Lori Loeb.

Lori contacted Tamir and Merissa began attending weekly classes in Tamir's Bar/Bat Mitzvah program under the guidance of Tamir's Judaic Advisor Cantor Daniel Benlolo and Judaie Program Coordinator Leah Smith.

'She soaked up the knowledge like a sponge. It was her first experience with Tamir, and she loved it," said Lori, "I met lots of friends there," added Merrissa.

"Merissa is perhaps the first visually impaired student to have done this. This was our family's first involvement with Tamir and it has been a very positive one," Lori said. "This is an organization that does not accept the word 'can't'."

Merissa and Lori worked together to put the transliterated Hebrew material into Braille so that Marissa could learn it and have her own "book" for review.

Although the second



Merissa Loeb "soaked up the knowledge like a sponge" as she studied for her Bat Mitzvah, attending weekly elasses at

Tamir Bat Mitzvah, like the first, was held at Agudath Israel, the "home" congregation for many Tamir residents, the Loeb family are members and regular attendees of Temple Israel.

their family simeha there as they did for their other daughter.

very closely with Leah Smith and Cantor Benlolo," said Merissa's father, Arthur. "He adapted the service for Merissa; the Temple gave us the opportunity to do it there."

Merissa is a very friendly, outgoing girl with many

friends and she wanted to include them in her special day. "Temple accommodat-

ed kids with special needs

in wheelchairs and with

walkers," said Lori.

The Loeb family is They wanted to celebrate extremely grateful for the opportunities Tamir have afforded Merissa. There she has made new friends and "Rabbi Garten worked eagerly looks forward to participating in the Shabbat dinners and the Timeshare (Tamir's respite care home).

She wants to learn more about being Jewish and considers the Bat Mitzvalı to be just the beginning of her

There are no words for the opportunity that Tamir gives these children," said Lori

"They should be so commended for their efforts, their dedication and their love for what they do. They have given kids like Merissa the opportunity to fulfil a dream.

Tamir offers a diverse array of programming including Judaica Through Art; Jewish Cooking; Movie Night featuring films with Jewish content; Mitzyah Projects which enable people with developmental disabilities to volunteer and contribute to their community in various ways; ever-popular Shabbat dinners; and, of course, the now-famous Bar/Bat Mitzvah program.

Upcoming events at Tamir include a Chanukah party on December 22, 6:30 pm in the JCC Social Hall where members of the Judaic studies group will perform a re-enactment of the story of Chanukah and the Tamir Choir will sing alongside members of the Shira Ottawa Choir.

If you know of someone who might benefit from participation in Tamir's Judaic Outreach program, please give Leah Smith a call (725-

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# Miracle on Chapel Street December 21

By Alvea Baker

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, commemorates a battle fought over 2,000 years ago. A small band of Maccabees, determined to defend their ways, eventually won back their sarctuary, ritual oil was to be lit and burned continually. One small vial lasted for a full eight days. It was truly a miracle!

The "new" Beth Shalom celebrates "A Miracle on Chapel Street" this Chanukah season. We gather together to rejoice in this holiday, mindful of our heritage. We also celebrate the rebirth of the synagogue that has been transformed once more to its original vibrancy.

In a special partnership orchestrated by Cantor Daniel Benlolo, Jewisb Family Services and Congregation Beth Shalom have teamed up to produce an extravaganza extraordinaire.

As part of an ongoing commitment to promote outreach to our community, Beth Shalom extends a



Cantor Daniel Benlolo of Beth Shalom and Mark Zarecki of JFS celebrate their new outreach partnership. The two organizations will hold a Chanukah party December 21 at Beth Shalom.

warm welcome to members of the Russian-speaking community.

Having joined Chapel Street congregants for all the Yom Tovim, Russian Jewry will celebrate together with members and their families, where a fun and frailich atmosphere will prevail. There will be gifts and gab, music and munching for tatas and tots.

Yes, there will be a live band from Toronto. Yes, Cantor Daniel Benlolo and three musicians will perform. Yes, there will be culinary delights. Yes, the price is right! \$10 per person. Yes, it's on Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 pm, so all can attend. Yes, call today and reserve.

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Recognize SJCC Volunteers and Leaders

The Ben Karp SJCC Volunteer Service Award: recognizes continued and outstanding volunteer involvement on behalf of the SJCC.

Grossman-Klein Family Teen Leadership Award: recognizes exceptional volunteer service to the Jewish Community over a number of years by one male and one female teen.

Nominations must be submitted to the selection committee, in writing, by Tbursday, January 8, 2004 and should include a resume of the nominee's involvement in the SICC and the Jewish community. Address nominations to SICC Ben Karp Award Selection Committee or The Grossman-Klein Family Youth Award Selection Committee, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 189.

Awards will be presented at the SJCC Annual Meeting and Awards Night, Thursday, January 29, 2004 at the SJCC.

For more information please contact Executive Assistant Pat Dunphy at 798-9818 ext. 221 or pdunphy@jecottawa.com

You Are Warmly Invited To Join Us
For Our Annual
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Featuring Chanukah Skits By: Tamir Participants
Performance By: Tamir Choir

& members of the Shira Ottawa Choir

Monday December 22, 2003 6:30 - 8:30 pm · SJCC Social Hall RSVP: Leah Smith 266-0544 A tsimmis of original songs about Jewish food, family, and festivals.



You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll run to the fridge.

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# 'Pics' from the past



# Chanukah 1949

The Kindergarten class of the Ottawa Hebrew Day School lights Chanukah candles. Stanley Ages is taking his turn at the chanukiah. (Photo courtesy of the Ottawa Jewish Archives)

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Deadline for submissions: January 31st, 2004.

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# Holocaust Education Week events held throughout the city

On November 9, 1938, the Nazis unleashed Kristallnacht (night of broken glass). destroying Jewish synagogues, shops and homes across Germany. German Jews were arrested on a massive scale and sent to concentration camps.

memorated this year with the lighting of candles of Franklin Building.

The award winning docu- Japan was screened. mentary Sugihara - Conspiracv of Kindness, the tale of a risked his career, himself and ducer of the documentary,

thousands of Jews by providing them (against orders remembrance at the Ben from Tokyo) with transit visas out of Lithuania to

Berel Rodal, whose father was saved by Sugihara and Japanese diplomat who Diane Estelle Vicari, the pro-

Kristallnacht was com- his family to save the lives of were both on hand to answer questions. His Excellency, Israel Ambassador to Canada Chaim Divon and Senator Mac Harb also attended.

> This year's Holocaust Education Week venues included schools, universities, churches, synagogues and other locations.

For the first time ever. Canada's National War Museum participated in Holocaust Education Week programming. Robert Jan van Pelt packed the room at the museum for the closing session, a presentation on the topic Holocaust in The Courtrooms: Reflections on the Zundel and Irving Trials.

Events this year were also held at Southminster United Church, Temple Israel, Merivale High School and Carleton University.

Many volunteers spent hours of their time making this year's Holocaust Education Week a success:

"When I learn that just one more person is given the opportunity to learn the truth about the Holocaust, I know that our efforts have been a

Elliott Marshall talks with students at Merivale High School during Holocaust Education Week.

success," said volunteer Elliot Marshall.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Holocaust but Were Afraid to Ask, a program organized by Elliott and Helen Marshall and Barry Davis, was presented at both Merivale High School and at Carleton University, in front of young audiences. Organized by Tonya Proctor, Temple Israel hosted several dozen youth from across Canada, who are part of the Encounters Canada program.

During these difficult times of rising anti-Semitism, religious intolerance and racism, it is important for the Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee to increase its efforts to educate the public about the hate, the destruction and the terror wrought upon all races during the Holocaust.

You can help by donating your time and making a financial contribution. For more information, please call Rena Herman (798-9818, ext. 243).

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# Chanukah: a time to celebrate large and small miracles

Ry Canton S.M. Rielak

It is sad that we do not always appreciate the things that we have until we no longer have them. We don't always recognize the miracle of having a person or even a mere thing in our lives, not to mention the miracle of our own life. We begin each day with the prayer Modeh Ani, "I gratefully thank you, O living and etemal King, for You have returned my soul within me with compassion – abundant is Your faithfulness."

This prayer is quite beautiful. It reminds us that

God grants us our very existence. Our moming breath is for me a miracle – the first of many. How many of us take the simple movement of rising from our bed for granted? One of the morning blessings states: "Blessed are you Hashem, our God King of the Universe, who straightens the bent."

There are so many everyday miracles that we are blessed with. I hope that you can continue to find them and give thanks to the Kadash Baruch Hu, for these wonders.

This Chanukah I urge your to list all the wonderful things and people you have in your life. By the end of Chanukah you will see how many beautiful miracles you can find in your daily

We all know that lighting the Chanukah menorah is a mitzvah. However there is something known as "Hiddur mitzvah" a glorification of any mitzvah. We can easily glorify the mitzvah of lighting the chanukiah. We can achieve this by making the actual lighting more beautiful. While you can purchase any chanukiah, to buy a beautiful one is conglorification. Chanukah revolves around a miracle of oil, purchasing oil containers for you chanukiah, instead of candles furthers that glorification. Taking the time to actually sing the blessings and songs of Chanukah can be one of the highest forms of glorification.

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We must not forget that there are places in the world that we must continuously be praying for. Please pray to Hashem this Chanukah that He will again perform a miracle for our home Eretz Yisroel and grant the people of Israel peace. I wish you eight days of celebration and a lifetime of hope, happiness, and miracles.

Shneur M. Bielak is the cantor at Agudath Israel Congregatian.

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Tamir is a caring team of participants, families, volunteers and professionals dedicated to assisting people with developmental disabilities realize their potential in a supportive Jewish environment through opportunities for personal growth and community involvement. We are a growing social service organization with over 80 employees. Tamir is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the following position:

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- · At least 2 years HR management experience
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- · Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Jewish community and social services experience are assets

Please send resumé and cover letter by December 15th to:

Mark Palmer, Executive Director, 11 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, K2A 1R9

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Rabbi Bulka, Rabbi Fine, Rabbi Blum, Rabbi Berger, Rabbi Mendelsohn, Rabbi Garten, Rabbi Finkelstein and Cantor Bielak invite you to participate.

Estimated cost: \$2,599\* for Adults \$1,999\* for Young Adults (21 - 40 years of age) by December 31st, 2003

Mission Co-Chairs: Sandy Granatstein Sam Firestone

Mission Advisor: Cantor Daniel Benlolo

Registration forms are now available!

Please visit:

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Or phone Marty Davis at 798-4696 ext. 258 or ujamissions@jccottawa.com

This year in Jerusalem!



\* Based on a minimum \$500 contribution to the 2004 UJA Campaign.

# Shoshi and her dog 'Copper' visit their friends at the Lodge

By Rhoda Bregman

Once a month, 18-yearold Shoshi Stulberg dresses up her Bemese mountain dog 'Copper' with a fancy bandana and begins her one-onone visits with the residents of Hillel Lodge.

The Visiting Pet Program involves outside volunteers, such as Shoshi, bringing in their pets to visit and shmooze with the residents. Currently, there are six volunteers and their dogs who are scheduled for regular

Cheryl Cogan, volunteer coordinator observes that "the greatest benefit of the program is that bringing a pet breaks the ice, usually guarantees conversation and helps the residents reminisce about their own pets."

During the visit, Freda Sussman told Shoshi, "My brother had dogs in our bam in Saskatchewan. My dad was a cattleman and we used to milk the cows and needed our dogs to protect them."

Sam Schaenfield remembered his German shepherd Sandy who used to bring him his slippers and Fanny Diamond fondly recalled that her husband used to love dogs.

Centenarian Harry Torontow kibbitzed around and wanted to know if Copper was a police dog. Even Maria Schwartzman, who only speaks Russian, smiled widely and petted Copper's head, illustrating bow the pet program manages to break the language barrier.

The animals take on another dimension on the Dementia Floor. Residents who don't appear to be focused know how to stroke the fur and find the action very soothing. It can bring a smile to their face. According to Marilyn Adler, recreation program manager, "The non-



Shoshi Stulberg and 'Copper' visit Hillel Lodge once a month, bringing pleasure to many of the residents.

(Photo: Barry Fishman)

threatening nature of the visiting pets is a therapeutic tool that sparks conversation and aids in bringing the residents out of themselves."

Steve Godin, restorative care therapist, says, "Petting is good for sensory perception and the animals make the residents cheerful and brighten up their spirits."

Already in place when the new Lodge opened was The Humane Society's Visiting Pet Program. Once a month, volunteers bring in dogs and some cats for the residents to stroke.

The Family Pet Program came about when a resident misinterpreted 'Pet Visit' written on the calendar of events, to mean her own pet. Families are allowed to bring in personal pets which may bave been left behind after the move to Hillel Lodge. The residents are then able to bring their own pets around and share stories with friends.

Shoshi is pleased to be

part of the Visiting Pet Program. "I feel really good and proud to have a dog that people enjoy. 1 like talking to the residents and it feels great to be able to go with the dog I really love, and that other people appreciate our presence

'She is a huge icebreaker . the residents look straight at Copper and begin reminiscing about their own pets. Everyone wants to know what type of dog Copper is and the most frequently asked question is 'what do you feed him and do you brush his teeth?' The questions usually then turn to me. asking who I am and where I am from.'

Shoshi has managed to find meaningful expression by combining her passion for animals with the mitzvah of visiting the elderly.

Cheryl Cogan is always interested in meeting other 'lodge friendly' pets and their owners. She can be reached at 728-3900, ext.191.

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Look what you've been missing!

# Shira choir to release new CD

By Maxine Miska

The mellifluous strains of Shira Ottawa Choir have charmed audiences at many of our community ceremonies. For those times when we are not gathered together in celebration or commemoration, the choir has just finished recording a new CD of their varied repertoire.

Az Yashir, the sold out first CD of this ambitious and talented group of singers, was only the beginning of a varied and exhilarating musical journey. Choir Director Cantor Daniel Benlolo and pianist/arranger Aviva Lightstone have led the choir through a repertoire including Hebrew, English, Ladino, and French songs.

Israel to participate as the only North American choir in the Zimriya International Choir Festival, at a time when other groups were deterred by the beginning of the second intifada. They have donned caftans and jalabas to perform in a Sephardi concert for Arts Alive, brought their message of peace and understanding to Muslim groups, sung for the Queen of England, and for Parliament during Racial Tolerance Weck.

The new CD, which will be launched this winter, is only one of the upcoming Shira Ottawa projects. The choir will invite the community to a night of cabaret in

The choir has travelled to late January, as a way of sharing the delights of singing and creating a circle of song against the frigid weather. After performing for the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, the choir will present a new musical program in honour of the centenary of Zionist visionary Theodore Hertzl's death, scheduled for early June.

"We love to serve the community through song," says Choir Director Cantor Daniel Benlolo, "and we love to have the community serve us by providing more singers for our choir. Tenors and basses are especially welcome. Join the choir, and serve the community through song."

The choir is a program of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and rehears-

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# Tziporah Heller to lecture on feminism and Judaism

Anyone who walks into a home or synagogue in the Orthodox Jewish community will be struck immediately by the significant differences in the roles of men and women. Many perceive these differences to be prejudicial and patriarchal. Many think that Orthodox women are treated as second-class citizens and they wonder why obviously intelligent women continue to buy into the system.

On Sunday night, January 25, from 7:00 to 9:15 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Tziporah Heller will address these issues and more.

Heller is an internationally renowned scholar, as well as a gifted author and popular lecturer. She has taught for many years



Tziporah Heller

at Neve Yerushalayim, Jerusalem College for Women, and has served as a visiting lecturer at Hebrew University, the Weizmann Institute, and the University of Haifa. She has lectured in England, South Africa, Canada and throughout the United States.

Her areas of expertise include textual analysis of Biblical literature and Jewish philosophy, with an emphasis on the teachings of Maimonides and the Maharal. Heller is the author of More Precious than Pearls. This Wov Up. and Our Bodies. Our Souls. "Indaism" Heller writes,

believes in wholeness, in the valid claims of contrasting aspects: in being part of a society while remaining a unique people; in being part of a community while maintaining one's individuality; in being a full fledged part of the world while also being a woman." The stereotype of the Jewish woman, as just a happy homemaker, is "antithetical to the idealized Jewish vision of womanhood, portrayed as early as in King 247), or jet@jccottowa.com.

Solomon's time in his poem, 'A Woman of Valor.' There we see qualities such as wisdom, courage, creativity, business acumen, and the profound insight to recognize how to relate to individuals according to their specific needs."

This seminar on Judaism and Feminism will be the climax of a spectacular weekend with Tziporah Heller, who will be the scholar in residence at the ninth annual JET Shabbaton at the Albert at Bay Hotel from January 23 to 25.

Heller will be speaking on the topic From Tikkun HoMidot to Tikkun HoOlanı, Perfecting Ourselves, Perfecting the World.

For more information or to register please contact the JET office (798-9818, ext.

# **Focus: young adults** take the initiative

(Continued from page 4) be self-directed,' she says, adding that she "would be happy to support [the efforts of others]" by helping with publicity, space rentals, and other means.. "You really do need a community working

together." As Mark Zarecki, director of Jewish Family Services commented recently, "For our community, Jewish singles meeting Jewish singles has tremendous implications for Jewish continuity." To this end he too bas taken initiative by organizing a meeting of Jewish

youth to discuss options for singles programming in Ottawa as a result of the demise of Futures.

Undoubtedly, more can be done, and hopefully it will be. Yet there are encouraging signs that young adults in our community are taking it upon themselves to initiate activities, and are beginning to receive the support they deserve from the formal institutions that represent community interests. If this relationship is nurtured properly, the future will be bright for young Jewish adults in Ottawa.

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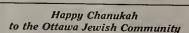
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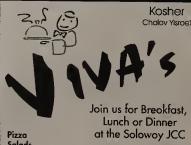
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### **Award winners**

Harvey Slack was presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal for "outstanding service for volunteer activities locally and nationally." A partial list of his volunteer work includes member of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, the National Arts Centre Gala Awards committees, Ottawa Valley Book Festival, Ottawa Children's Festival, Kids Help Phone, Elizabeth Bruyère Hospital Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Ottawa Hospital Foundation, May Court Hospice, Ottawa Food Bank, Jewish Youth Leadership Development Program and the Panel of Jewish Education.

In February 2003, Slack was appointed as a trustee of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation, which includes the museum, the Canadian War Museum and the Virtual Museum of New France.

The Greater Nepean Chamber of Commerce has awarded Aliza Gauzas. owner of All Events Planning Services with the Best Home-based Business 2003

All Events Planning Services began in 1992 with personal lifecycle events such as weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and theme parties, and, as the business grew, Gauzas has expanded to meet client needs to include corporations, small busi-

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Harvey Slack

ness, government and associations.

Gauzas feels her success as an independent event planner is due to "finding that special niche by providing complete event management and design with a onestop shopping concept that provides all product and services."

Gauzas has served on the Board of Hillel Lodge, been involved in various fundraising endeavours and has sung with Temple Israel and Musica Ebraïca choirs. She now sings a cappella and competes with 120 women in the Canadian Showtime Chorus.

Brian Keller has received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his volunteer work in neuromuscular disorders. Keller is a former chair of the Board of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada and founding member and former chair of the Neuromuscular Research Partnership of Canada. Under his direction, the NRPC helped to



organize all neuromuscular organizations under one umbrella. Other volunteer government-funded organizations are now using the model he helped design. As well, Keller sits on the board of Hillel Lodge and CHEO.

### New kosher catering services

Kosher caterers are about to expand their services to Ottawa. Montreal's Ernie the Caterer and Chef Randall's Event Management Company (EMC) have recently joined forces to provide a one-stop event-planning concept.

EMC, the brainchild of Montreal entrepreneur Randall Comfield, will offer a full range of options including themes, special tableware, décor and the services of an on-site coordinator.

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### THANK YOU FROM VERA KLEIN

Re: Negev Dinner November 5, 2003

To ALL of you who participated and supported me in any manner - with your donations to the project "The Vera and Leslie Klein Family Garden"; through your "ads" in the souvenir booklet, by purchasing corporate tables, with your tributes, donation cards, Foundation commitments, personal phone calls, by gracing me with your presence at the actual event; and for your general support, love and kindness in all ways connected to the dinner - I thank you profoundly, from the bottom of my heart.

You will always be remembered fondly by me and my family.

With Love, Vera Klein

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# Warm feelings as talmudic study centre opens

By Michael Bendel

On Sunday, November 9, with the inauguration of the new Kollel of Ottawa, Ottawa officially joined the ranks of major North American cities hosting a Kollel, cities such as Toronto, Baltimore, Denver and Miami.

At an official launch held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, leading Rabbis from major North American centres, as well as local Ottawa Rabbis, brought greetings and bestowed their blessings on the new Kollel.

The Kollel concept was explained by several speakers, including the two Roshei Kollel, Rabbis Yonah Burr and Binyomin Holland. A Kollel is a group of young married Rabbis who devote themselves moming, noon and night to Torah study. The aim is that they not only deepen their own knowledge and understanding of Judaism's sacred texts and tradi-

tions, but also enrich the religious ambience in their host city. They and their families accomplish this by offering classes and less formal instruction to any Jews in the city who wish to avail themselves of the Kollel's services, as well as providing examples to local residents of what it means to live as a Torahobservant Jew.

Over 350 people were in attendance at the launch, held in the Nathan, David & Max Zelikovitz Families Social Hall at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

The program opened with the reciting of Tehilim (Psalms) for the welfare of our brethren in Israel by Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, Rabbi of Ottawa's Congregation Beth Shalom West. Amie Vered, President of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir, warmly greeted the assembly on behalf of the Ottawa Jewish community. Greetings, blessings and

Divrei Torah were delivered by Rabbi Matisyahu Salomon, Mashgiach of the Lakewood Yeshiva, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, Rosh Yeshiva of the Philadelphia Yeshiva, Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, Rabbi of Ottawa's Machzikei Hadas Congregation and Rabbi Yonah Burr, Rosh Kollel of Kollel Ottawa. Rabbi Binyomin Holland introduced the keynote speaker, Rabbi Yissocher Frand, a Rosh Yeshiva of Ner Israel Rabbinical College of Baltimore, Rabbi Frand, a worldrenowned scholar and orator, brought a message of "Chizuk" (encouragement) to the new Kollel. delivered in his own inimitable style. Rabbi Frand was thanked by Rabbi Mordecai Berger, Rabbi of the Young Israel of Ottawa Congregation. Dr. Jozef Straus, a wellknown Ottawa business executive and a supporter of the Kollel of Ottawa, also spoke.

In the reception following the speeches, the most frequently heard comment was that Ottawa had probably never hosted so many Torah luminaries at the same time. In addition to the Rabbis who spoke, the attendees included Rabbi Chaim Zelikovitz, Rosh Yeshiva of the Manhattan Beach Yeshiva, an Ottawa native whose family has been so prominent in the history of the Ottawa Jewish community, and Rabbi Reuven Silver of Toronto, another native Ottawan who has scaled the heights of Torah scholarship. Rabbi Malkiel Kotler, Rosh Yeshiva of the Lakewood Yeshiva, Rabbi Shlomo Miller, Rosh Kollel of the Toronto Kollel, Rabbi Moshe Glustein, of the Yeshiva Gedolah of Montreal, a frequent visitor to Ottawa, were also in attendance.

The Kollel is located at 1762 Carling Avenue, occupying the second floor.



Invited speakers and distinguished guests. Over 350 people attended the launch held in the Nathan, David & Max Zelikovitz Families Social Hall.

Sponsored by Michael and Miriam Bendel

# **Inauguration of the Kollel of Ottawa**



Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom West, leads audience in the recitation of Tehillim on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Israel.



Arnie Vered, President of the Vaad Ha'lr, delivers greetings from the Jewish Community Council.



Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, Rabbi of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, delivers greetings to the Kollel on behalf of the Ottawa Rabbinate.



Rabbi Mordeeai Berger, Rabbi of Congregation Young Israel of Ottawa, thanks Rabbi Frand, the keynote speaker.



Rabbi Binyomin Holland, Dean of Kollel of Ottawa, introduces the keynote speaker.



Rabbi Yissocher Frand, a Rosh Yeshiva of Ner Israel Rabbinical College of Baltimore, delivers the keynote address.



Rabbi Yooah Burr, Dean of Kollel of Ottawa, delivers a Dvar Torah.



Dr. Jozef Straus addresses the audience.



Steve Gordon introduces Arnie Vered to Rabhi Shmuel Kamenetsky.

# family celebrates Hana's 100 birthday with concert

By Meg Friedman

Early one morning a few weeks ago, I stepped off the elevator to the third floor and was treated to the most

**Ittawa** 

beautiful sounds. Classical music was resonating down the hallways, and as I continued on my way I realized it was coming from the din-

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ing hall. Inside, Dan Sharon and his three children were performing a breakfast concert for their Bubbe, Hana Sharon and the rest of our third floor residents.

I leaned against the doorframe to listen and to watch the residents' reaction inconspicuously, and couldn't help thinking, "What a wonderful way to start the day." The talent and generosity of the Sharon family moved me; as did the warmth and light that shined from the faces of the men and women I've gradually come to know as

I was pleased to see the family perform again at Hana's 100th birthday party, which also featured a lively concert by Cantor Bielak. It was there that I had the



Hana Sharon blows out the eandles at a special eelebration in honour of her 100th birthday. At the party, she kvelled in the musical stylings of her great-granddaughters.

chance to speak with Dan Sharon about their inspiration for volunteering at the

Lodge. "It's a wonderful feeling to see the positive reaction of the residents and making a difference. It can bring a smile to a drawn face or get toes tapping. As people often say, music lifts the spirit and touches our souls. So if music is the easiest way to bring joy into someone's life, then we are pleased to play a part in making that possible."

Wow. If there's one thing I've learned at the Lodge, it's how blessed we are to have so many talented, caring individuals who contribute their time and talents to enrich resident life, support existing programs and services, provide companionship to residents and generally make this facility a unique and special place to call home. Mazal Tov to Hana on her special birth-

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The Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge has worked tirelessly on behalf of our Jewish seniors by supporting essential programs and services and ensuring the residents are included in every aspect of Jewish life.

The annual Chanukah party is just one example of the Auxiliary's success in getting that job done.

"The Chanukah Party is one of my favourite projects. The music, food and décor create a festive feeling in the Home," says Swedler. "The party also brings our residents, families and visitors together in celebration and reminds us all to enjoy the good times."

The Auxiliary would like to invite the community to stop by the Lodge and join in the fun on Sunday, December 21 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

The party will feature entertainment by A Touch of Klez, latkes, gifts for the residents, and much more. There is no admission.



Adele Horwitz, Sarah Swedler and Renee Greenberg wrap 100 presents from the Auxiliary Gift Shoppe, which will be given to residents at the annual Chanukah Party on Sunday,

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# **Jetsetters to hold Chanukah bash, Dec. 20**

Jetsetters will he hosting their annual Chanukah Bash on Saturday night, December 20 at 8:00 at Victoria Park Suites in downtown Ottawa. A traditional Chanukah menu of latkes, donuts, and heer will get the night off to a great start. A

program that is sure to create lots of laughs is being planned.

Last year over 60 young adults in their twenties and thirties came out for the Jetsetters Chanukah Party. This year the letsetters planning committee expects 100.

"Once the word gets out, people hring their friends." says one memher of the planning committee. "Everyone will he there."

Gabriel Bowers, originally from Victoria, BC, now living in Ottawa, says, "Jetsetters events are the best jet@jccottawa.com.

place to meet new people," Many newcomers to Ottawa. from across the country, as well as native Ottawans have found this to he true.

For more information please call JET (798-9818, ext. 247) or e-mail



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### Local folk singer releases Jewish music CD ago, I watched many in the

By Maxine Miska

When Ottawa folk singer Shelly Posen introduced himself to songwriting guru Tom Paxton backstage at the 2000 Champlain Valley Folk festival in Vermont, he was, to say the least, surprised at Paxton's response: "Shelley Posen! You wrote La-La-La-Latke! What a song!"

It was the high point of the festival for Posen and one of the great moments of his songwriting life. Paxton had been one of his heroes for 40 years.

The song Paxton was exclaiming over was written by Posen in 1996, one of several he'd composed for the Chanukah and Purim parties he and his wife threw for friends and family. Ahout two years ago, he put nearly a dozen of his Jewish songs, including The La-La-Latke Song, on a tape and sent it to a folksinging friend in Chicago who performs at local schools. Little did he know she would organize a year-end concert involving local folk celebri-



Shelly Posen

including Paxton. "That's where he heard La-La-Latke," says Posen, "and he thought enough of it to remember the chorus and my name."

Posen, who in his other life is curator of foiklife at the Museum of Civilization, has heen writing acclaimed songs for decades, mostly on non-Jewish topics.

Most of his Jewish songs have to do with food. "Write what you know," he laughs. "I was in a deli and I ordered a tongue sandwich. The waitress looked at me like I was from another planet.

"You want a what sandwich?" she asked. Posen looked at the menu and found an utter absence of tongue. Taking out his pen, he wrote down everything eise on offer. Within 24 hours, he had a tour-deforce Gilhert & Sullivantype patter song whose verses start with "You've got" then a long list of every Jewish food known, then the last line (and the title of the song), So how come you don't have tongue?

Not all of his Jewish songs are comical and focused on food. In 2000, he took part in The Songalong, an Ottawa songwriters' event where each participant composes a work on a supplied topic.

The result was And We Sang Ha Lakhma Arnya, a song depicting three generations of Seders in the narrator's family.

"The song resonates with everyone I've performed it for," says Posen. "When I sang it at a folk festival in upstate New York two years

audience wipe away tears. I have a hard time singing it myself: there's a lot of my own experience in it." Posen has just recorded his Jewish songs about food and other topics, serious and funny, on a CD appro-

priately called Manna The CD is available at the front desk of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. A portion of sales is being contributed to support adult cultural programming at the SJCC. It can also be purchased at the Ottawa Folklore Centre (OFC Music), Compact Music, and on Shelley Posen's website, www.shellevposen.com.

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# Birthright's gift of a free trip to Israel

**By Gillian Dolansky** 

Our lives are filled with gifts. We receive gifts from family, friends and sometimes even strangers. Gifts come in many forms, from tangible objects to lessons learned. In my case, one of the most precious gifts I've ever received was a trip to Israel on Birthright courtesy of both a group of strangers and our community.

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It's a girl!

Bethany Goldstein and David Kotkowski, Toronto, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Daniella Malea, born September 27, 2003. Proud grandparents are Debbie Goldstein and Mark Goldstein of Ottawa and Rena Kotkowski and Leon Kotkowski, z'l, of Israel.

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Bulletin Classifieds Get Results! thropists Charles Bronfman and Charles Steinhardt, and executed in conjunction with communities around the world, Birthright Israel aims to introduce young people (aged 18-26) to Israel and Judaism through a free ten-day trip to Israel. When the project first began, many people thought it sounded too good to be true; as it happened, not only is the project exactly what it promises to be, it is often so much more.

At a time when many are afraid to visit our Jewish state, young Jews, both affiliated and non, from across Canada are falling in love with Israel and our collective heritage through the gift of Birthright Israel or Canada Israel Experience (CIE) trips. Young adult participants, ranging from those who have never given a thought to Israel or Judaism before to those brought up in traditional Jewish homes, are discovering and examining the role of Israel and Judaism in their lives as well as forming friendships and ties with fellow Jews that will last through their lifetimes.

Not only is Birthright Israel a gift that enriches and changes the lives of its participants, it is also a gift to one's own community and to one's extended community in Israel. Participants often come back from

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found passion and drive to become involved in their community. Similarly, many times Birthright alumni feel a need to donate time and/or money to causes in Israel. While these are very serendipitous by-products of the Birthright experience, it is important to note that this particular gift, unlike many others we receive, has absolutely no strings attached. If a participant wants to simply go to Israel for ten days for free, he can do so and never look back. Luckily, because of the power of the experience. this isn't an off-encountered situation

As someone who recently returned from her fourth journey to Israel in the span of a year and a half, I can tell you there is no better time to go visit, particularly on a CIE Birthright Israel trip.

CIE takes every possible precaution and safeguard when it comes to safety and security. The need for special safety measures is a priority for CIE and participants' well-being is paramount.

The rewards for both the participants and for Israel are immeasurably greater during this troubled time. Many shopkeepers in Israel are still in business today because although tourism is suffering greatly in Israel,

ANDREW BALFOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

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Community

Birthright Israel is still bringing thousands of Jews to Israel. As a participant, there is nothing quite like being thanked everywhere you go for coming to Israel (especially because you came on a free trip!). The welcome a young Jew receives in Israel is always amazing, but at this time it's even more special.

Clearly, this is an opportunity of a lifetime. Eligibility requirements include being a Jewish high school graduate between the ages of 18 and 26 who has never been on an organised peer group trip to Israel.

For more information or to register, please visit www.israelforfree.com or contact Gabe Meranda (798-4696, ext 264). Registration is still open for February 2004 trips (registration closes early January) and summer trip registration will begin in the New Year. To learn more about the Birthright Israel experience, e-mail gillian dolan sky@homail.co.il.



Chanukah greetings from the partners and staff of Ginsberg Gluzman Fage & Levitz, LLP

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Bring a pareve or dairy lunch and swim gear. No food containing peanuts please.



After Camp Care is available Dec 22,23,29 & 30 from 4:00-6:00pm \$10 Members; \$12 Non-Members, additional child \$7 Members; \$10 Non-Members

For more information call Youth Program Manager Gail Lieff at 798-9818 ext. 303, glieff@jccottawa.com



# The ultimate compromise latke: thin and crispy around the edges and creamy in the centre

My mother has an incredible sense of smell. In our family, we joke that she can smell foul odours a day before they actually occur. My childhood memories are filled with her going from room to room, sniffing and muttering, "What's

food cooked in oil. She claimed that she could smell the oil for weeks afterwards. Now, I must be honest here and admit that I inherited my father's sense of smell - that is to say his lack of smell. He had sinus problems and his nose mal-

#### **Compromise Latkes**

Makes 14 latkes

This recipe is based on the Traditional Potato Latke recipe found in the November/December 1997 issue of Cook's Magazine

- 2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled
- I medium onion, peeled and cut into 8 wedges
- 2 tablespoons matzo meal
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- corn or other vegetable oil for frying

Grate potatoes in the food processor, using the grating disc. Place half the potatoes in a colander, set over a medium bowl, and set aside.

Replace grating disc with steel blade and add onion wedges to remaining grated potatoes in the food processor. Coarsely chop potatoes and onions until all pieces are about 1/8 inch in size. This should take about 6 one-seeond pulses

Add chopped potatoes and onions to the shredded potatoes in the colander. Squeeze potato mixture to drain as much liquid as possible into the bowl below the colander. Let the potato liquid stand for about 2 minutes until the potato starch settles at the bottom of the bowl. Pour off the liquid but keep the starch in the bowl. This starch will help hold the latkes together. Mix egg, matzo meal, potato mixture and salt into the starch in the bowl.

Set a 12-inch sauté pan over medium high heat, add 1/4 inch depth of oil and heat until oil is shimmering, but not smoking. Greasy latkes result from frying in oil that is not hot enough. Measure out about 1/4 cup of potato mixture, squeeze out any excess liquid and place in hot oil, shaping into a 1/2 inch thick disc with a non-stick spatula. Repeat until about 5 latkes are in the pan.

Fry until golden brown on the bottom and around the edges, about 3 minutes. Turn with spatula and fry the second side until brown, about 3 or 4 more minutes. Drain on a brown paper bag set on a wire rack, set over a cookie sheet. Repeat with remaining potato mixture, returning oil to correct temperature between each batch and replacing oil after every second batch.

Make-ahead tips: Do not transfer latkes to oven while you are cooking the rest. The taste and texture really deteriorate. You are much better to let cooked latkes cool, then cover loosely with plastic wrap and sit at room temperature for up to 4 hours. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Transfer latkes to a beated cookie sheet and bake until crisp and hot, about 5 minutes per side.

You can also freeze cooled latkes. After about 2 hours, when latkes are firm, transfer to zip-lock bag and freeze for longer storage (up to one month). Bake in 375 degree oven, until crisp and hot, about 8 minutes per side.

functioned often. That said, once a year, on Chanukah, we had latkes. My

mom's latkes are fantastic. They are lacy shreds of potatoes, fried until crisp. The lingering smell of frying oil was quickly chased away by my mother's secret blend of cleaning agents, a potent, lethal combination of Joy and Ajax. Do not try this at home unless you are wearing a gas mask.

The first time my husband Roger brought me to Ottawa for a family dinner we had latkes. They were thick and creamy, not the thin, lacy, crispy, shredded latkes that 1 grew up with.

After we were married, we bad had our families over for a Chanukah party. Of course, we could not agree on which kind of latkes to make, so we ended up making both. The guests were starving by the time the latkes actually appeared at the table, so both kinds were gobbled up very quickly.

Not being able to resolve which type were superior, I came across a compromise recipe. These latkes are thin and crispy around the edges, but still creamy in the centre.

### **Apple-Pear Sauce**

#### Makes 5 cups

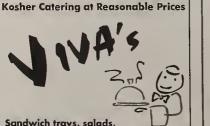
I like combining apples and pears. It makes the sauce a bit sweeter. You can use all apples if you like. I usually use Macintosh and Granny Smith. For the pears I use Bartlett. If you don't have a food mill, now's the time to buy one. With a food mill you do not need to peel or core the fruit.

6 large apples, a mixture of varieties, washed 2 large pears, washed

Cut the apples and pears into quarters. Put about a half inch of water into a medium sized saucepan. Add apples and pears, cover pot and bring to a boil.

When water begins to boil, uncover pot and turn down heat to low. Cook for about 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until fruit breaks down and becomes musby.

Pass mixture through a food mill set over a large bowl. Discard the peel and seeds that remain behind. Refrigerate applesauce until ready to use.



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The deadline date is Wednesday, December 31, 2003.



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# **Kid Lit**

Deanna Silverman

it's a miracle! A Hanukkah Storybook By Stephanic Spinner Illustrated by Jill McElmurry An Anne Schwartz Book! Atheneum Books for Young Readers 2003 Unpaged Ages 4 - 8

If I were to use one word to describe it's a miracle!, the word would be exuberance. Its sparkling, full-colour illustrations, its main theme – one family's nightly celebration of Chanukah – and its bedtime stories – one each night told by cowboy-boot-clad, with-it Grandma Karen – vibrate with energy, humour and love.

Six-and-a-half-year-old Owen Block has been made the family's new O.C.L., Official Candle Lighter. His parents help out by singing the blessings and his Grandma Karen offers a steady stream of praise and support. Grandma also tucks Owen in each night and tells him a bedtime story.

Over the eight nights of Chanukah, readers learn about the holiday customs and the miracle of the oil. Even better, they too enjoy Grandma Karen's and Owen's ritualized bedtime conversation and her simple, inspiring stories.

Are Grandma Karen's stories - about a girl who dreamt of becoming a rabbi; a husband who called on the community to pray for his sick wife; a girl who yearned to own a horse; an alien set right by seeing the Chanukah candles; a boy who became a comedian; a parrot named Dreidel who assisted a dentist; a boy who didn't want to go to school, and a permanent O.C.L. – real or made up?

On the eighth night of Chanukah, Owen's aunts and uncles come for dinner. And Owen realizes that miracles, those unexpected and amazing things that make one feel glad to be alive,

# Family memories and Chanukah stories: Part 2

have happened in his very own family. "Bingo!" Grandma Karen would say, "it's a miracle!" And a truly delightful, family-centred Chanukah book!

Yesterday's Santa and the Chanukah Miracle By Sarah Hartt-Snowbell Art by Patty Gallinger Napoleon Publishing 2002 Unpaged Ages 6-9

I inevitably bristle when the words Chanukah and Santa or Chanukah and Christmas are used in the same sentence. You can, therefore, imagine my first impulse when I read the title, Yesterday's Santa and the Chanukah Miracle. In fairness, however, I controlled myself and read the book.

Surprise! For a number of reasons, I decided to recommend it. First, the book honestly raises some of the issues Jewish children living in a predominantly Christian environment face at Christmas time. Second, the story describes an example of contemporary Jewish poverty. Third, it shows children's ability to empathize and their willingness to help.

While shopping at the mall during the Chanukah/Christmas season, Annie thinks she recognizes her Zaideh's friend, Simon Greenbaum, dressed as the mall's Santa. What better reason for a Jewish girl to line up for a visit with Santa than to confirm her suspicions? And, while she's at it, why not make ber own request?

The encounter embarrasses both of them. Mr. Greenbaum has to explain that he's unemployed and needs the money. Annie has to confess that secretly she always wanted to visit Santa. Each swears the other to secrecy.

Unfortunately, Aunt Ruth was at the mall too. That night, at the family's Chanukah dinner, she mentions seeing Annie on Santa's knee, Geyald!

Meanwhile, Annie and her cousins are counting their Cbanukah gelt and Annie is thinking about breaking her

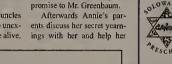


From it's a miracle!

realize and accept that feeling different at this time of year is OK. As for Mr. Greenbaum, his deficiencies as a Santa humourously come to light. He is fired, but bounces back nicely when he and Annie help each other.

Realistic full-colour illustrations add to the story's naturalness and help make Yesterday's Santa and the Chanukah Miracle a winner.

My family joins me in wishing you and your family a bappy, bealthy, story-filled Chanukah!





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Thursday, December 11th, 2003 · 11:45 - 12:45 Soloway Jewish Cammunity Centre, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private Preschool Art Studio

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2	Youth 1/2 Day Lessons* (age 6-12)	м \$239 • NM \$249	\$80	\$115
3	Teen 1/2 Day Lessons* (age 13-17)	M \$279 • NM \$289	\$80	\$115
4	All-Day Instruction (age 6-17)**	M \$328 • NM \$338	\$80	\$115
5	Lifts Only (age 6-12)	M \$125 • NM \$135	\$80	\$115
6	Lifts Only (age 13-18)	M \$165 • NM \$175	\$80	\$115
7	1/2-Day Snowboarding Lessons (age 9-17)	M \$279 • NM \$289	\$80	\$115
8	All-Day Snowboarding Lessons (age 9-17)	M \$328 • NM \$338	\$80	\$115

<sup>\*</sup> Morning classes. Afternoon free ski. \*\* Classes 10:00 - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

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Pick up your ski/snowboarding registration form at the SJCC Member & Guest Services desk or phone 798-9818, ext. 295. For more information, contact Jon Braun, Athletics and Leagues Manager, at ext. 267.

Chaques Visa Mast nard and one see prof. It glass must be payed. It Hapoel Ski Program, Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9.

Group information will be mailed to you in early January,

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

### December 31.

Rental measurements taken on January 8 at 7:00 pm, SJCC. All skiers who need rentals should be present to ensure proper fit.

### REFUND POLICY:

Complete refund less administrative fee of \$25 if notice of withdrawal received by December 22, 2003. No refunds after December 23, except for medical reasons.





# Arts Works / Rose Ann Hoffenberg Melvin Charney. THE WHITE CITY REVISITED ... Tel Aviv, No. 22, 1993

Miriam, a photographer, and I went to see the current Melvin Charney retrospective at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography (CMCP).

Provocation greeted us when we entered the gallery. It was too obvious that the black and white, frieze-like photograph of a street in Montreal was a composite of separate photographs. No attempt had been made to blend the images - automo-

biles stood cropped and signs were left incomplete. Furthermore, a photograph of the other side of the street, hangs underpeath this first image, but it hangs upside down.

I could think of historical references for the work: the 60s conceptual art for the heavy reliance on text, and Picasso's fractured images and questionable reality. Miriam, however, remained unconvinced: she did not want to stand on her head to look at a picture.

Charney builds on these early techniques and his more traditional interest in urban landscapes. He calls the photo-montages, where he deconstructs and reinvents a given site, "assembled photographs." The exhibition also includes huge "painted photographs" that consist of enlarged photographs used as a support for oil pastel and acrylic paint. The final gallery displays his sculptures, in a variety of media, which relate to a number of projects planned for specific

the portraval of miners' homes in Noranda, or a street in a small town in Alberta. comment, but not agreement.

"I find myself in a narrow street, my back up against a wall, attempting to photograph a building across the street. It is usually difficult to get a building in one image at ground level. A frontal view is possible with a wide-angle lens, as is a panorama of sev-

urban settings. His whimsical Cities on the Run (sculptures and "painted photographs") provided just the right setting for Miriam and I to review the exhibition, yes, even the irritating "assembled photographs." We debated the effectiveness of his images in Their starkness prompted

Charney describes THE WHITE CITY REVISITED ... Tel Aviv, No. 22, an "assembled photograph," in the accompanying catalogue.

eral images. However, I'm after something else. The character of the run-down

neighbourhood should infiltrate the image. I begin by photographing the building from one fixed position, producing a series of images that extend, complement and juxtapose one another. I then superpose the uncropped images one on the other, the edge of each uncropped frame forming part of the overall composition. The idea is to activate the composite image from within by creating a degree of tension between individual photographs - unlike a panora-

"I am drawn to the socalled "White City" of Tel Aviv, the "Bauhaus style" city dating from the 1930s and 1940s. It is a unique concentration of over 3000 Modem buildings with a distinct history that has yet to find its rightful place in our understanding of twentieth-century

"A half-century after its



THE WHITE CITY REVISITED ... Tel Aviv, No. 22

construction, the "White City" has become something else. Parts either removed or deteriorated and an encrustation of additions have transformed the building. The now not so 'White City' has assumed a lived-in quality integrated to street life that subverts the normative.

If you want to share your views with someone, there will be interpreters in the exhibition space, on weekends from 12 noon to 3 pm, until the exhibition closes, January 11, 2004. The CMCP is located at 1 Rideau Canal, under the Château Laurier.

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• If you have the ability to help a mature person improve his reading skills ... we would welcome your help.

· High school student needs remedial help with Grade 10 math. Are you a whiz?

· Can you provide some practical assistance (picking up a few items at the grocery), offer to chat occassionally with a friendly younger lady facing physical challenges (St. Laurent/Elmvale Acres)?

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· Chanukah Candle-lighting - participate in leading the candle-lighting festivities during each night of Chanukah. Call to reserve your preferred date: Dec. 20, 24, 25 at 5:15 pm or Dec. 26 at 4:00 pm.

· Ideal for a Family Mitzvah Program - Monday evening BINGO leading and assisting residents in playing Bingo, 6:45 8:00 pm.

· Pushing juice cart and serving refreshments - momings 10:30 am or afternoons 3:00 pm. Usually requires one hour depending on how much you chat!

· Physiotherapy program - assisting therapeuties pers nel with exercise games. Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday, approximately 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

• Recreation Programs & Special Events - porter and participate in activities with residents or accompany them on an outing, morning or afternoons. Approx. 1 1/2 to 3 hours. Add your

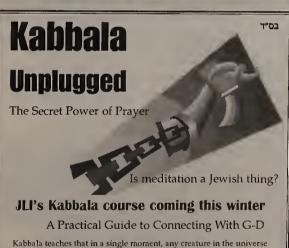
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There is no language (1 think) more expressive, more delicious, more filled with emotion and longing than Yiddish. These entertaining and highly readable books pay homage to a language that's slipping away into obscurity.

Meshuggenary: Celebrating the World of Yiddish By Payson Stevens. Charles Levine and Sol Steinmetz Simon & Schuster Hardcover, 2002 (242 pages)

This is the best book about Yiddish since Leo Rosten's classic (The Joys of Yiddish) and goes beyond being simply a vocabulary lesson. It's an entire history and elucidation of the culture and language of the mame loshen (the mother-tongue), a celebration of its literature and humour, its artists, music, rogues and con-men, playwrights and stars.

The authors set the record straight once and for all on the misconception that Yiddish is not a "real" language; that it's really a dialect of German. "That's the same," they write, "as saying that Italian is a form or dialect of Latin. No one denies that Yiddish is related to German; so are English, Dutch, and Danish, But just as English developed from a core of Angles

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# Yiddish: the gantzeh megillah!

and Saxon dialects, so Yiddish emerged from a confluence of Middle High German dialects." And although it thrived as a language before the Second World War (with close to 11 million speaking it, six-and-one-half of them in eastern and contral Europe) and declined in use with the genocide, assimilation, and natural deaths of many of its speakers, Yiddish is still kicking, albeit feebly, with approximately two million Jews speaking it today.

So expressive is Yiddish that many of its words have been adopted by the English language (nosh, schlep, klutz, schmooze) - you'll find about 100 in The Random House Dictionary and The Oxford English Dictionary - with its foods (bagels, blintzes, lox) going mainstream. And let's not forget its expressions. You couldn't make these up, they're so geshmak (delicious): Hak mir nit keyn tshaynik (Don't give me a hard time, or literally, "Don't bang me on the tea-kettle"), Zol vaksn tsibeles fun dayn pupik! ("Onions should grow from your bellybutton!), Vos fuler der boykh alts leydiker der kop (The fuller the stomach, the emptier the head).

Once you read Meshuggenary, you'll be the resident maven on everything Yiddish, and know the difference between Yiddlish (Yiddish-sounding words that aren't) and Yinglish (Yiddish words that have joined the English language). The book also includes food, recipes and Internet sites. And if the book just wets your appetite for more, its seven-page reference section on everything from archives and organizations to publications, Yiddish studies, performing arts and more, will satisfy your need for a Yiddish fix.

> Yiddish: A Nation of Words By Miriam Weinstein Ballantine/Random House Softcover, 2001 (303 pages)

This is the story of Yiddish -"a story," its author writes, "that begs to be told." It is a miraculous tale about how a lowstatus language, "only for the women, only for the untutored, only for ordinary, workaday use ... expands ... pulses with life for a thousand years ... Then, just when this poor noaccount tongue goes into creative overdrive, winning a crumb of respect and even hope for a bit of glory, it all disappears. Holocaust, assimilation, executions, displacement, language police, and then, incredibly, stone silence. One brief moment of flame, a pintele yid, a spark of Jewishness, burns and then sputters. A few thousand folk songs, a few hundred ways of parsing the fine points of buman behaviour - shnuk, shlemiel,

Miriam Weinstein sure knows how to tell a story. With her engaging style, she takes us on a sentimental journey down "the meandering path of Jewish history." We visit sbtetls and raise a glass of shnapps before we head into the Industrial revolution and the Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment). We take some side trips to Eastern Europe, Russia, Poland, Israel and the United States. We meet the writers who made Yiddish respectable as a literary language. We stop to mourn the Holocaust and the loss of half of the world's Yiddish speakers and realize that the majority "of the world's three million Yiddish speakers living today are old" and will leave "an eerie stillness in which few words of mame loshn are heard." We pause to marvel at people like Aaron Lansky who, at age 25, sct up the National Yiddish Book Centre, which today houses over one-and-a-half million volumes, and ponder that, in some ways, the future of Yiddish lies with the ultra-Orthodox Haredim

Weinstein's wonderful tribute - which includes two timelines, a glossary, a bibliography, and photos - captures the essence of this tenacious language. She ends with these wistful words of hope, taken from Isaac Bashevis Singer's 1978 Nobel Prize acceptance speech: "Yiddish has not yet said its last word ... It was the tongue of martyrs and saints, of dreamers and Kabbalists...the wise and humble language of us all, the idiom of frightened and hopeful humanity.

Book notes: Award-winning journalist Sue Fishkoff has written a fascinating account of the Lubavitcher movement with her book The Rebbe's Army: Inside the World of Chabad-Lubavitch (Schocken Books/Random House, Hardcover,

Focussing on the North American outreach of Chabad, she shows how this ultra-Orthodox, "deeply religious Hasidic movement whose members adhere to a strict interpretation of Torah law" has been able to attract mostly non-Orthodox Jews. With their "army" of selfless young shlichim who head out to communities around the world - "to live in a strange new place, with no friends or family, feeling bewildered, alone, and a little like animals in a zoo" - without money, just the desire and commitment to bring Jews back to the ways of Torah, the Chabad-Lubavitch reach out in their drive to rekindle the "spiritual sparks in every Jew." Their non-judgmental embracing of Jews from all backgrounds and levels of observance have attracted to them generous donors, many of whom are from the Reform or Conservative movements.

A very readable book about a Jewish outreach program that works.

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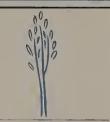
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Marion Shapiro by Don and Lee Chodikoff.

Annie Polowin's mother by Mark and Felicia Saslove

Eddie Freedman by Barbara Taylor. Horace Philipp by Jane and Bill James, and by Jule

and Frances Cogan

Jack Gerson by Betty and Ed Rose and lamily.

Max Miller by Shelley Harns. In observance of the Yahrzelt of:

Mary Klaman, a dear mother, sadly missed by Shirley Strean-Hartman. Izzy Klaman, a dear father, sadly missed by Shirley

Norma Lipp, a dear sister sadly missed by Shirley

JEWISH YOUTH LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND In appreclation to:

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Mazal Tov to: Chuck Merovitz on his nomination for the "Profession al Services of the Year Award\* by Marty, Terri, Seth, Elana and Barak Oavis.

Oorothy and Herb Nadolny on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Oaniel Chemey by Terri and Marty Davis.

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Hy Soloway on his very special birthday by Terri and Marty Davis.

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Ruth Berger by Zelaine and Sol Shinder; and by Alti and Berel Rodal.

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Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz on the engagement of their son Lee to Deb by Bill, Mera and Jason Goldstein In memory of: Max Miller by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz and lamily.

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Eddie Freedman by Lila and Abe Bookman; and by Stephen, Myma and Chrissy Bookman.

TILLIE AND HARRY CHERM MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Sol Kaiman on his second Bar Mitzvah by Jessica and In memory of: Esther Blostein by Sylvia and Sol Kaiman.

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Eddie Freedman by Linda and Arthur Cogan. HOWARD JEFFREY ANDREW MICHAEL GREGORY

AND ZACHARY COGAN FUNO

Mazal Toy to: Beverly and Irving Swedko on the marnage of their daughter Oeborah to Steven Kokinos by Lisa and Fred

Continued on page 36



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Sol Kaiman on his second Bar Mitzvah by Doris Edelstein

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### BENJAMIN AND FREDA FEINSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

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Dr. Prasun K. Das by the Hill family.

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### DOROTHY AND HY HYMES ENDOWMENT FUND

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frene Kronick on her special birthday by Dorothy and Hy

Estelle Abelson by Dorothy and Hy Hymes. Zelda Freedman by Dorothy and Hy Hymes. Yetta Arron by Dorothy and Hy Hymes.

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### PINHEY AND LIBBY KARDASH ENDOWMENT FUND

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Mazal Toy to:

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Mazat Tov fo: Ethel and Syd on their 55th wedding anniversary by Sally and Elliott Levitan

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Millie Weinstein in her new home by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff

Manny Shacter on his special birthday by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

Continued on page 37

# In Appreciation:

Our heartfelt thanks to family and many friends for your kindness and condolences on the loss of a cherished wife, mother, grandmother and sister, Marion Shapiro. Your expressions of sympathy were very comforting during this difficult time.

> Al Shapiro, Dayle Levy, Andrea Kreidstein, Ellie Shapiro, Norma Lazear, Joyce Kimmel, June Kurland

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Eddie Freedman by Pearl and David Moskovic.

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Dorothy and Herb Nadolny on the Bar Mitzvah of Iheir grandson Daniel Chemey by Clair and Julius Krantzberg.

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Dorothy and Herb Nadolny on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Daniel Chemey by the Board and Staff of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation/United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa

Ron and Ellen Chemey on the Bar Mitzvah of their son

Daniel by the Board and Staff of the Offava dewish Community Foundation/United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa.

Hy Soloway on his wery special britiday by the Board and Staff of the Offava Jewish Community Foundation/
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In observance of the Yehrzell of:

Benjamin Polowin, a beloved father and grandfather, sadly missed by Alex and Kathleen Polowin.

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In memory of: Raja Miller by Steve and Heidi Polowin.

Eddie Freedman by Steve and Neidi Polowin.

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and on the birth of Tirza by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Dr. Jozef and Vera Strauss on the marriage of Jonathan and Shevy, on the start of yet another career, and on the inauguration of the Ottawa Kollel by Alfi end Berel Rodal,

Barbara and Sid Cohen on the birth of Their grand-daughter by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Chana Raizel and Sender Kagan on the marriage of Avremi and Chani and on the birth of Yaakov Yehuda by Alti and Berel Rodal.

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by Alti and Berel Rodal Zeldie and Avremi Richter on the birth of Raizel by Alti and Berel Rodal

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Professor Raymond Klibansky on his 98th birthday by Alfi and Berel Rodal.

Herb Gray on receiving Doctoral Degrees Honoris
Causa from the Catholic University of Lubin, Poland and
from the University of Dthawa by Alti and Berel Rodal.
R\*Tueh Sh\*/lemah to:

Ruth Berger by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Yvonne Azuelos' falher Mahlouf by Alti and Berel Rodal.

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Janet Holtzman on her special birthday by Fred Ross.
Vera Klein Ior a wonderful 2003 Negev Dinner by Fred

R'fush Sh'lemeh Io: Betty Levick by Fred Ross. Stephen Victor by Fred Ross

# In Appreciation:

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all who called and sent wishes of good health during my recent illness. Your kind words and support offered comfort to my dear wife Valerie and myself. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated and we thank you. Mendel Good

In appreciation to:

in appreciation to: Susan Isaacs Lubin by Fred Ross. In memory of: Isobel Bedin by Bil and Mera Goldstein. Rufino Da Silva's brother by Dr. Fred Ross. Horace Philipp by Dr. Fred Ross.

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Julia and Buzz Sommers on the Ber Mitzvah of their son Jacob by Barbara, Alexandra and Rebecca Fine.

RICKIE AND MARTIN SASI DVF FAMILY FUND

Sot Kaiman on his second Bar Mrtzvah by Rhoda and Jeffrey Miller, Howard and Sara; and by Rickie and Marty

Max Miller by Lori and Peter Greenberg; and by Anita

SYD AND SNIRLEY SCHECTER ENDOWMENT FUND

Schecter; and by Ann Schecter

In observance of the Yahrzelt of:
Lazar Schecter, a dear father, sadly missed by Syd
Schecter, and by Ann Schecter.

Rebecca Gelman, a dear sister, sadly missed by Syd Schecter; and by Ann Schecter. Sadie Cahn, e dear sister, sadly missed by Syd

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Herb Gosewich by Elhel and David Malek In memory of: Esther Blostein by Ethel and David Malek

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Lillian Raport by Myra and Lester Aronson, Jennifer.

nna, Gregory and Jordan.

Evelyn Gottdenker by Myra and Lester Aronson.

SAM AND SUE SLACK ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Eddie Freedman by Sharon and David Appolive, Ryan,
Jaye and Brody; and by Seymour and Joy Mender, Jess,
David, Jared and Sue Slack.

RUTH AND HY SDLOWAY FAMILY FUND

Hy Soloway on his very special birthday by Sally and Elfiott Levitan; and by Ian and Randi Shinder and family R'fueh Sh'iemah to:

Hy Soloway by Alb and Berel Rodal.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGEL ENDOWMENT FUND R'fueh Sh'lemah Io:

Estelle Abelson by Laura and Gordon Spergel.

In memory ol: Horace Philipp by Laura and Gordon Spergel.

NATHAN AND THEI MA STEINMAN R'fueh Sh'lemeh to: Morton Pleet by Thelma Steinman.

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In memory of: Esther Blostein by Ted and Laya Jacobsen.

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sary by Millie Weinstein. In memory of:

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Tara Wakter on her Bat Mitzvah by Leah Schweitzer. Alex and Lynda Wakter on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Tara by Or. Kathi Kovacs and Irwin Schweitzer

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"You declare, my friend, that you do not hate the Jews, you are merely "anti-Zionist." And I say, let the truth ring forth from the high mountain tops, let it echo through the valleys of God's green earth; when people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews - this is God's own truth."

Martin Luther King

Natan Sharansky quotes these words as part of his must-read article on anti-Semitism in a recent issue of COMMENTARY (http://www.commentarymagazine.com/sharansky.html)

More recently, after the synagogue bombings in Istanbul he issued a call to action: "The world must understand that Islamic anti-Semitism and Islamic terror are the same. Together they represent an existential threat to all of us - Jews and non-Jews. As a result, a war against terrorism must include a war against anti-Semitism." (http://web.israelinsider.com/bin/ en.jsp?enPage=ViewsPage&enDisplay=view&en DispWhat=object&enDispWho=Article%5E12984&enZone= Views&enVersion=0&)

#### Sharansky: Soviet-era refusenik

In the 1960s and the 1970s, those who mobilized support for Soviet Jews typically faced the reaction: "What can we do against this mighty empire? It's hopeless - we should keep quiet and not antagonize them to do something worse."

Hatrod is an evil that cannot be ignored in the hope that it will go away. In his resistance to Soviet tyranny, a generation ago, Sharansky demonstrated that people who resist evil can make a difference, can change the course of history.

In 1977, after many run-ins with the Soviet authorities, Sharansky was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for his

# Sharansky: the non-inevitability of history

human rights activities as part of the dissident Human Rights Watch. In 1999, he met with Vladimir Putin in Moscow, and was shown his fifty KGB dossiers. Sharansky asked: "Where is the KGB now?" (http://www.jewishaz.com/jewish news/990226/files.shtml)

Sharansky: a troubling presence

Sharansky is often sharp-edged in his positions and prookes strong reactions. He was accused of exacerbating Israeli politics, when he formed a political party to fight for the rights of Russian immigrants. Last year, he argued that the legitimization of Arafat was a cynical mistake, and that accepting a dictator who brutally exploited his own people in the hope that he could control them was both wrong and ineffective. From his Soviet experience, Sharansky argued that whatever the risks, only encouragement of progress toward non-dictatorship would allow the Palestinians to decide where their real interests lay (http://www.aish.com/jewishissues/middleeast/ Free Palestine Can Become a Reality.asp). More recently, however, he took a position on negotiations that is summarized in the headline of one of his articles: "Temple Mount is More Important than Peace" (http://web.israelinsider.com/ bin/en.jsp?enPage=ViewsPage&enDisplay=view&en DispWhat=object&enDispWho=Article%5E12880&enZone= Views&enVersion=0&).

Somebody with such strong views cannot expect total agreement. But Sharansky's main thrust is a consistent advocacy of the security of Israel and the Jewish people. He turns a spotlight on what has to be done to safeguard the present and move forward to a better future.

Sharansky and student activism

In his capacity as Israel's Minister for Diaspora Affairs, Sharansky recently returned from a tour of campuses (see interviews at Oxford, at (http://www.oxfordstudent.com/2003-11-13/focus/1 [hyphens intended] and Harvard, at htm://www. thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=349970). Sharansky moves beyond the obvious reality that Jewish students on campus are

facing organized intimidation by pro-Palestinian activists. He asks why Zionist activists on campus are generally not able to counter effectively.

Sharansky's main conclusion is that student Zionists are not encouraged, or adequately supported, either by the Jewish communities in which they live or by Israel. He accuses Israel of having been preoccupied with reinforcing support from older, established Jewish leadership and only recently having woken to the campus danger. He calls for much closer links with student Zionism, and greater attention to today's students who will be tomorrow's leaders

Sharansky's argument on student activism is found at http://www.jewsweek.com/bin/en.jsp?enPage=BlankPage& enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=object&enDispWho= Article%5E1815&enZonc=Opinians&enVersion=0&. Like his other arguments, this one has led to a storm of criticism: see for example, the reaction by Avraham Infeld, interim president of the Hillel Foundation (http://www.forward. com/issues/2003/03.10.31/news4.sharansky.html)

If we want to do more than accept the current wave of anti-Semitic hatred as an "inevitable" reality, then we should seriously consider Sharansky's criticism and his proposals to help our young people fight it more vigorously on university and college campuses.

About 2,300 years ago, a small band of Maccabee resisters challenged the Scleucid Empire, centered in Syria. At their height, the Scleucids were dominant from the southern Balkans to present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. In its time, the Empire seemed invincible. The resistance of the Maccabees was futile, an attempt to defy "historical inevitability." But, as we celebrate Chanukah once again, thanks to the Maccabees, we can ask: "Where are the Seleucids now?

Note: As addresses tend to be lengthy, some may have been hyphenoted when extended to another line. Readers should ignore hyphens unless there is a specific note that the hyphens are in the original address.



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### Happy Chanukah to the Ottawa Jewish Communnity

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

Prime Time presents Art Therapy with Claire Cohen, Temple Israel 1301 Prince of Wates Drive, 12:00 noon. Reservations and info: 721-1678 or 728-4202.

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

Community Chanukah Ball, Adudath Israel Congregation. 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 pm.

### DECEMBER 14

SJCC/JET Chanukah Spirit Family Celebration, 1:00 pm. \$5 per child. Inlo: 798-9818, ext.276 JACS - Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others, location varies, call 282-0249 or email ottawa@jacs.ca.

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

OTC annual Chanukah party, Chanukah Wonderland, Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive, 6:30 pm.

JETSETTERS Chanukah Party, 377 O'Connor Street, 8:00

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

A Touch of Kiez Open Rehearsals, Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sachs, 2:00 pm. Congregation Beth Shalom

and JFS present A Miracle on Chapel Street Chanukah Party, 151 Chapel Street, 5:00 pm. Tickets \$10. Info: 789-3501

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 22

OTC Chanukah party, Chanukah Wonderland, Ottawa Torah Centre, 3023 Cedarview Road, Barhaven, 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Tamir Foundation, Annual Family Chanukah Party, 6:30 pm. RSVP Leah Smith, 266-0544

### WEDNESDAY

Yid Kidz Singles Ball. Info: yidkidz@gosympatico.ca.

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

JACS · Jewish Alcoholics,

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CARDLELIGHTING						
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Jan 9	\$	4:20 pm				
Jan 16	\$	4:29 pm				
Jan 23	*	4:38 pm				



# **ONGOING** TO APRIL 4

Ancient Treasures and the Dead Sea Scrolls December 5 to April 12, 2004 Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier Street, Gatineau, Québec,

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This Information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schafer, call far coordinator at 790-9818 ert. 255. Wa have volce mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may tax to 798-9839 or email to bachster@jccottawa.com.

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May their memory be a blessing always.

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